

# Industrial Worker

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EDUCATION

ORGANIZATION

EMANCIPATION

## Idaho: Wobblies Blacklisted From Construction Job

This is a story about how not only are there two classes of people in the world, but the bosses want two classes of workers too. I have been a construction worker for 22 years in the pipefitters union, and no matter where I work – refineries, steel mills, paper mills, etc. – the people who work for the plant have better conditions than the people who work for the contractors and build the facilities. The most blatant example of this just happened at Micron Technology in Boise, Idaho.

Micron treats their permanent workers like gold, and the workers who build their plants like shit. That is because they don't want the plant hands to organize. The highest paid "lead man" in the Fab, which is where they make the computer chips, makes about \$18 per hour. But each Fab turns Micron about \$350,000 per hour profit in chips. The Micron bosses know they can't go down to job service and hire scabs and retrain them if their workers go on strike, at \$350,000 per hour, so they give them a cheap cafeteria, a baseball diamond, profit sharing, insurance, etc. It makes the Micron workers feel special.

Now, for the people who build their chip plants. Pipefitters, electricians, sheet metal workers and so on are already union (because they want their plant built right the first time). This pisses Micron bosses off, so they go out of their way to make the union construction workers look like animals. The Micron employees park their cars in a paved, well lit parking lot; the construction hands park about 1/4 mile away in a rut-filled, muddy, dark lot and walk into work.

The "union" contract says that we will have a sanitary, heated, dry shack to eat our lunch, with hooks to hang out coats and coveralls. What we got was an awning with no sides covering a dirt floor with picnic tables. When the wind blew it covered our tables and lunch pails with dirt, blew out coats on the ground, and blew sand in our eyes while we were eating. Being that we're not allowed to use Micron restrooms they gave us nine porta-potties, each one being rated for 10 men per 40-hour week. This job had two to four hundred men working seven

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## Report from the Front Lines...

# Union Scabbing Keeps Staley Afloat

Without a doubt IBEW Local 146 (building trades) are the most flagrant, notorious union scabs we have in Decatur. I'd say they go in the Staley plant at least five days a week. A couple of weeks ago, on a Sunday, when I was on picket duty a Bodine Electric truck (the company Local 146 members work for) came out of the Staley plant. These union scabs say they are only doing "new" construction, not "struck" work. But why are they up in cherry pickers on Sundays? Trying to troubleshoot a problem, no doubt...

United Parcel Service drivers (Teamsters) were going in and out of the plant when the lock-out began. However, they filed a grievance over being ordered to cross picket lines, and now UPS supervisors do the dirty work. Union members continue to ship Staley packages to and from the Decatur depot, however, and to load them into the trucks.

Teamsters working under the Master Freight Agreement are honoring the picket lines at Staley. However, local scab trucking outfits are taking trucks (the trailers) in and out of the plant to and from "union" and non-union terminals for "union" drivers to take elsewhere. Luke Collins and Jostes Trucking handle the bulk of this scab work; Collins drivers haul trailers to the General/Staley Transfer yard, a "union" yard, where the trailers are picked up by union drivers.



photo: Langel/NFN

*Police arrest two activists during a road blockade in front of the Sheridan hotel while President Clinton addressed the National Governors' Conference in Burlington, VT. The July 29 - August 1 Conference was met by four days of militant protest from supporters of Mumia Abu-Jamal, resulting in 24 arrests. See story, page 6.*

Tanker trucks and other specialized trucking firms are crossing the lines routinely. Tanker trucks run by a company called Transport Service are in an unusual situation. Some of the older drivers are Teamsters, while the younger drivers are non-union. I don't know how a company does this, and I don't know how the union allows it. But Transport Service drivers ("union" and non-union alike) go in and out of the plant regularly. "Union" concrete and sewer trucks are also crossing the lines, even though Staley workers joined the concrete workers' picket lines a few years ago.

"Union" Boilermakers go into the plant mostly to do repairs on the co-generation boilers and reactors, along with IBEW members and Laborers. The co-generation plant is key to keeping the plant open; Staley would have no choice but to capitulate if these "union" workers honored picket lines.

Otis Elevator workers have been crossing the lines, as have "union" Laborers, although not on an every-day basis.

Also crossing the lines are workers for companies that do clean-up work with super-suckers and power washers. At least

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# Industrial Organization Key to Future

Some 48 Wobblies from across the United States convened in Philadelphia over the Labor Day weekend to share our organizing experiences and ideas, discuss ways to build a stronger union, and meet with Wobblies otherwise known only through words on a printed page or a computer screen. IWW members attended from Ann Arbor MI, Atlanta, Boston, Burlington VT, Chicago, Detroit, Honolulu, Lehigh Valley PA, New York City, Philadelphia, Salt Lake City, San Diego, San Francisco, Santa Cruz and southern New Jersey. Although no delegates from our rapidly growing British Isles branches were able to attend, a restructuring proposal by FW Kevin Brandstatter received extensive discussion.

The IWW General Assembly has little decision-making power; rather it is an opportunity for Wobblies to get together face to face, to exchange ideas, and to develop proposals which are then forwarded to branches or to the membership as a whole (via referendum) for action. Discussion at the 1995 Assembly largely revolved around efforts to revive the IWW's industrial unions as functioning organizations, and to restructure the General Executive Board and the union to place greater emphasis upon these industrial bodies. While there was general agreement upon the need for restructuring, some delegates preferred a more regional approach that would transform the IWW into a loose network of autonomous general membership branches.

**Growing Amidst the Rubble**  
As unions generally continue losing

members and influence, the IWW is growing, reported General Secretary-Treasurer Fred Chase. The IWW has added new branches in O'ahu, Hawai'i, Puget Sound, Washington, and Duluth, Minnesota in the past year. St. Louis, Missouri Wobblies have just applied for a Branch charter, and Burlington, Vermont, Wobs told delegates they will be applying soon. Individual new members are signing up at a steady pace, and paid-up membership has reached its highest point in several years.

The union continues to run a substantial deficit on operations, but at a much slower rate than in fiscal year 1993-94. The *Industrial Worker* has been returned to regular, monthly publication, and the *Little Red Songbook* is finally out. The Berkeley Curbside Recyclers have a new contract after prolonged negotiations which threatened to break down at several points. IWW

branches and members across the union have played a major role in the struggle to save the life of Mumia Abu-Jamal, joining solidarity demonstrations from Hawaii to Great Britain. Several Wobblies have been jailed for their role in these demonstrations. "I don't think he would still be alive," Chase said, "if it wasn't for the actions of people like us."

"With membership rising and expenditures down," Chase concluded, "I feel optimistic about our prospects."

The General Executive Board report was more contentious. GEB members have been unable to agree on how to allocate union organizing funds and on how to respond to what a majority of GEB members believe is inadequate explanation of how some IWW organizing funds have been spent. While everyone agrees in principle

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## In This Issue...

**Wobs Crash Governors' Party in Burlington**

**Bingo Workers Struggle**

**"I Won't Work"**

**Mass Pickets Stop Detroit Newspaper Scabs**

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## LETTERS: Scabs

Dear Wobblies,

I have a question. In your August edition you have a picture on the front page of Decatur strikers. One is holding a hangman's noose with a sign on it: "Scabs." Your caption below says that they are showing what they think of scabs.

A scab is somebody that is trying to feed their family. And you guys seem to think they were shipped in from another planet.

Scabs are the result of unemployment. Yet what does the IWW do about unemployment? Nothing! You talk about helping workers in the here and now, but for the workers that are screwed most by capitalism you have nothing. And if somebody tries to use government to help the unemployed this is derided as politics.

Well, I guess that's more of a statement than a question. I'm just trying to figure this stuff out. Tell me if I'm in error.

Joe Randell, Bellingham WA  
*Reply:* I am not entirely unsympathetic to the pressures that turn people towards lives of crime – shoplifting, burglary, mugging, and even scabbery. Yet while we organize against the social conditions that lead to such criminal behavior, that does not mean we can allow people to go around preying upon their fellow workers.

Nor can I agree that the IWW does nothing about unemployment. For more than 80 years we have agitated around the issue of shorter hours, seeing no reason why some people should toil 40 (and today 72) hours a week while others are jobless. In several instances we have won substantial reductions in hours with the immediate result of increasing employment.

Several of our branches are also active

## Industrial Worker

### THE VOICE OF REVOLUTIONARY UNIONISM

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in groups such as Food Not Bombs which attempt to feed the unemployed. We are attempting to organize marginal workers, such as street musicians in Ottawa or temporary workers in San Francisco.

Finally, the IWW as a whole takes no position on government except to argue that an organized working class can gain far more by acting for itself, through its own efforts, than through relying upon and working through politicians. I know of no Wobbly who would not support extending unemployment benefits to a full year (or even 10).

That said, I do not believe it is possible to remedy unemployment through government action. It may be possible to win some income and other assistance. But ultimately the employing class needs huge quantities of us to be unemployed in order to drive down wages, instill fear among our fellow workers, and speed up those "lucky" enough to hold down jobs. They can do this because the working class is disorganized and does not act in its own behalf. If we organize and begin standing up for ourselves and our fellow workers, we won't need to beg the politicians to help us do what we are perfectly capable of doing for ourselves.

—Jon Bekken

## Comrats?

To the editor,

I distinctly disliked your book review,

*The CIO: A History.* Although I agree in general with your view of the CIO, I feel that the review was in fact an excuse for vitriolic editorializing from a conveniently chosen bully pulpit.

"Comrats," indeed! Such an overweening denigration of a significant fighting force in American labor history is unworthy of a mind as bright as yours.

I think your view that the failure of radical labor to seize the world (or any significant part thereof) is the result of betrayal of the class to business (union) interests by leadership is simplistic. True, people can be led, but they don't always have to follow. Unfortunately, our history seems to indicate that they do usually follow. The class is not a sacred entity free of error, and it is insufficient to lay its mistakes at the door of leadership – even given the abysmal cupidity of that leadership. Among my friends and acquaintances are many elderly people who valiantly fought in the labor struggles of the '30s and '40s. Many of them were and are communists. It is saddening to think that these people struggled and suffered for whatever modicum of progress was brought about so that others, with the privilege of hindsight and enjoying the not insignificant benefits resulting from the CIO's struggles, could dismiss them as "comrats."

Do you really think that all these people were braid-dead automatons following malign, self-interested orders from Moscow?

In the US communist movement there always existed a little discussed but discernible tension between bureaucratic centralism and syndicalism (or worker self-activity, or whatever you would choose to call the motivation of people to resist the bosses).

Are you not large enough to respect the "com" while condemning the "rat"?

Yours for the red and the black,

Bob Rivera

*Reply:* No doubt many sincere, well-meaning fellow workers went into the Communist Party and the CIO, building these fundamentally conservative institutions in the mistaken belief that they were thereby advancing the interests of our class. But the fact remains that the Communist Party from its very inception sought to destroy the IWW and other independent working-class organizations that refused to subject themselves to its control. Within the CIO, CP militants fought for centralized control, no strike pledges, and the subordination of workers' interests to the needs of the New Deal and the war effort. When the red scare purges came, many class conscious workers were glad to see the "reds" ousted.

Certainly the primary responsibility for  
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# I.W.W. DIRECTORY

Job Branch= 5 or more members in workplace  
GMB=General Membership Branch IU=Industrial Union Del=Delegate  
GOC= Organizing Committee.  
IU 120: Forest Workers  
IU 450: Print & Publishing Workers  
IU 460: Food Processing Workers  
IU 610: Health Workers  
IU 620: Education Workers  
IU 630: Entertainment Workers  
IU 660: General Distribution Workers  
IU 670: Public Service Workers

## AUSTRALIA

### NEW SOUTH WALES

Sydney Area Group– Del: Ray Elbourne, Corner Dittons Ln. & Old Illawara Hwy, Sutton Forest NSW 2577.

## CANADA

### MANITOBA

Winnipeg GMB– B. Mackay, PO Box 3204, GNPO, R3C 4E7

### ONTARIO

Ottawa GMB– 388 1/2 Kent, K2P 2A9. 613/231-2922 <indwrk@web.apc.org>  
Toronto Group– 11 Andrews Ave M6J 1S2. 416/941-9945 Meets 1st Thurs 7 pm; phone for location.

## BRITISH ISLES

Regional Organising Committee– 75 Humberstone Gate, Leicester LE1 4WB, tel no 0116-266-1835

## ENGLAND

London Group and IU 530 Couriers Union– BM Box 4529, London WC1N 3XX, 0171-358-9124  
Oxford branch– c/o Oxford Claimants and Unemployed Workers Union, East Oxford Community Centre, Princes Street, Oxford  
Health Workers IU 610 and Suffolk IWW– del Harry Girling, c/o Ipswich Community Resource Centre, 16 Old Foundry Road, Ipswich IP4 2DU  
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General Distribution Workers IU 660 and Kent IWW– del: Ray Carr, 40 Cornwallis Circle, Whitstable, Kent CT5 1DU

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San Diego Group– P.O. Box 907, San Diego 92112-0907. 619/284-WOBS  
Santa Cruz GMB– PO Box 534, 95061 <sciww@ucscb.ucsc.edu>  
IU450 New Earth Press Job Shop– 1921 Ashby Berkeley 94703 510/549-0176  
IU620 Job Shop UCB Recyclers– 620 Eshleman B'k'ly 94720 Daniel Widener  
IU670 Berkeley Recycling Ctr. Job Shop– M. Carlstroem, 2515 Piedmont #8, 94607  
Los Angeles GMB– Meets 2nd, 4th Sundays. Location call (24hr): 213/368-4604. Andrew Willett 1724 Westmoreland Blvd., LA 90006.  
IU630 Film Workers– Miguel Sanchez, 1748 Clinton St. LA 90026 213/368-4604  
SF Bay Area GMB– PO Box 40485, 94140 Office: 1095 Market St. #616 (open Thursdays, 11 am - 5 pm) 415/863-WOBS East Bay Office– c/o Long Haul Resource Center, 3124 Shattuck Ave., Berkeley 94705 510/845-0540.

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Denver/Boulder– Del: Cliff Sundstrom 910 E. 8th Av. #202, 80218. 303/832-7602. Brendan Ruiz, POB 370663, 80237-0663

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### ILLINOIS

Chicago GMB– 1340 W. Irving Park Road #287 60613. 312/549-5045. Meets 1st Fri. 7:30 pm.

### LOUISIANA

Baton Rouge Group– Steve Donahue, 729 Bungalow Ln 70802. 504/389-9572.

### MARYLAND

Baltimore GMB– Tarawa IWW, PO Box 7036, 21216-0036. Del: R Bey, 301/367-3024

### MASSACHUSETTS

IU630 GOC– Jim Barclay, 75A Elm St. Worcester 01609  
Boston Group– Steve Kellerman, del. 617/469-5162

### MICHIGAN

SE Mich. GMB– 103 W. Michigan Ave., Ypsilanti 48197. 313/483-3548  
IU630 Workers Stories Workers Lives Job Shop– Albert Parsons 313/769-0695  
IU670 Ann Arbor Tenants Union Job Shop– 4001 Michigan Union, Ann Arbor 48109. 313/

763-6876.

### MINNESOTA

Duluth GMB– 8 N. 2nd Ave E., #301, Duluth 55803 218/723-7887.

### MISSISSIPPI

Gulfport Group– C.G. Streuly 601/896-3515.

### MONTANA

Butte– Mark Ross, 111 W. Quartz 59701. 406/782-4465

### NEW YORK

IU670 Socialist Party USA Natl Office Job Shop– 516 W. 25th St. #404, NYC 10001. 212/691-0776  
Capital District Group– POB 74, Altamont NY 12009. (518)861-5627  
Rochester– Del: Ric Garren, 716/232-4005  
NYCGMB– Del: Wade Rawluk, 5610 Netherland Ave #4D, Bronx 10471. 718/796-3671. Rochelle Semel, RD 1 Box 158-B, Hartwick 13348. 607/293-6489

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Lehigh Valley GMB– POB 4133 Bethlehem 18018 610/515-0181. Del: Trish D'Amore 434-0128. <len.flank@node99.com>  
Reading Group– PO Box 8468, 19603. Del: Dennis Good 215/921-2459; Rick Page 215/562-3487  
Philadelphia GMB– 4722 Baltimore Ave. 19143. <phillyiww@iww.org>  
IU660 Wooden Shoe Books Records Job Shop– 112 S. 20th St. 19103. 215/569-2477. <ulrike@templevm.bitnet>

### SOUTH CAROLINA

IU450 Harbinger Publications Job Shop– Merll Truesdale, del., 18 Bluff Rd. Columbia 29201. 803/254-9398

### TEXAS

Houston Group– PO Box 981101, 77098.

### UTAH

Salt Lake Branch– Tony Roehrig, PO Box 520514, Salt Lake City 84152-0514. 801/485-1969

### VERMONT

Burlington Group– c/o Thomas Jordan or Deborah Ormsbee, POB 1004, Williston 05495. 802/482-4601 or 802/863-0571 <nfnena@igc.apc.org>

### WASHINGTON

IU460 Fairhaven Co-op Flour Mill Job Shop– 1115 Railroad Ave. Bellingham 98225.  
Industrial Transportation Project– Arthur Miller, POB 5464, Tacoma 98415-0464  
Puget Sound GMB– PO Box 20752, Seattle 98102 Del.: Stan Anderson, 206/367-0477

### WISCONSIN

IU450 Lakeside Press Job Shop– 1334 Williamson, Madison 53703 608/255-1800.  
Delegate: Jerry Chernow  
Madison GMB– PO Box 2605, 53701. 608/255-1800. Del: Tim Wong, Jerry Chernow



# PA Bingo Fight Still On

In 1992, the Lehigh Valley branch made contact with workers in a local bingo hall who had tried to organize themselves to change some work rules, got pissed and walked out in a wildcat strike, and were all fired. The workers affiliated with the IWW and we filed charges on their behalf with the NLRB. A few months later, the NLRB issued a merit finding (which is the NLRB investigator's conclusion that an unfair labor practice "has merit," that an illegal action has been committed and that the enforcement procedure will begin). The bingo bosses responded by voluntarily re-hiring everyone, only to fire them all again within two weeks. We filed new charges.

In June 1993, the day before these charges were to go to trial, we reached a settlement with the bingo hall, under which all of the workers got their jobs back, everybody got back pay for the time they had lost, and the boss signed a contract with the IWW. Unfortunately, the ink hadn't even dried before the bingo boss decided that he didn't have to follow parts of the contract that he didn't like. Within a couple of months we had racked up about fifty or so new unfair labor practices (scheduled for trial September 18).

After the NLRB issued a merit finding on these new charges, I, in my capacity as organizer for the Lehigh Valley Branch, wrote a press release for the local newspaper, *Morning Call*, which the reporter misunderstood, writing an article stating that Allied Air Force (the surviving Bingo hall operator) had been "found guilty."

Allied used this as an excuse to sue me, arguing that in my press release I had "implied" that Allied had been convicted of a crime, and had thereby defamed them. The suit asked for \$1.4 million in damages.

Essentially, this was a SLPPP suit (a "strategic lawsuit to prevent public participation"), a not uncommon tactic in which a company files a lawsuit against a critic which it knows it probably will not win. The only purpose of the suit is intimidation and harassment, and to force the target to divert resources away from organizing against the company and towards the courts.

We quite frankly didn't feel that the suit would be much of a problem, since we had several levels of defense. First, I simply did not say what Allied alleged that I had said. Second, truth is a defense, and the truth is that Allied is guilty of unfair labor practices. And thirdly, even if we assumed that I was guilty as hell, no damage had been done to Allied Air Force anyway. So we didn't think the trial would present any problems.

Then we met the judge. Wallitsch has VFW plates on his car, and he knows who

## Around Our Union

the IWW is and doesn't particularly like us. Before the trial even began, he told my attorney that he thought I was probably guilty (this was before he had heard even one word of testimony). All of the motions we made regarding the trial, the jury instructions, etc were rejected out of hand.

Wallitsch ruled that the NLRB charges and Allied Air Force's unfair labor practices were not relevant to the case, and we were forbidden to mention any of them in our testimony. This destroyed the core of our defense.

Another problem we had was in explaining NLRB procedures to the jury. The bingo hall imported some \$200 an hour lawyer from Philadelphia to testify about NLRB procedures, and in typical lawyerly fashion he confused them so much that they had no idea what was going on.

As a result of all of this, the jury got to hear the bingo boss's story of how this big nasty labor union was picking on him, but never got to hear about all the illegal shit that the bingo hall was pulling on us. As a result, they concluded that my statement in the press release was defamatory. They did, however, conclude that Allied had suffered no actual damages and awarded zero dollars in compensation. However, to send a message to "big labor" (that's us), they awarded punitive damages of \$10,000.

There is a Supreme Court ruling (the Linn case) which expressly states that it is not legal to award punitive damages in a case where no actual damages have been established. So we have filed a motion for post-trial relief asking that the verdict be set aside for two reasons: (1) it is improper, since it violates the Linn standard, and (2) the trial itself was improper, since the judge improperly limited our defense and improperly instructed the jury.

Wallitsch has three options. He can grant the motion and order a new trial. That would not be particularly good, since it would mean that I would need more money to pay my lawyer for a re-run (although not as much money as the first time, since most of the leg work has already been done). On the other hand, if a new trial were ordered, the bingo hall would also be looking at a lot

## NY Capital District Wobs Complete Summer Pickets

The IWW Capital District Group conducted their final minimum wage demonstration of the summer August 9 at McDonald's 1224 State Street, Schenectady. While New York's legislature was adjourned on vacation, local Wobblies and other activists who support the Campaign for a Livable Minimum Wage turned up the heat.

After nearly three years of calls for a raise to \$6 an hour by a coalition of statewide labor, religious and other civic groups, New York's "representative" government finished their lawmaking session in June without a vote on this core issue. State senate republican leadership backpedaled their way from a lukewarm endorsement of the \$6 figure, eventually claiming that this was too much to ask and that \$4.75 an hour would be a little easier on the Empire State's business interests. The heavy-handed influence of the state's business council remains painfully evident, as many still cling to the unsubstantiated premise of job losses if there were to be a minimum wage advance.

"We simply can't allow the politicians to control the agenda any longer," IWW Delegate Greg Giorgio told a local radio news reporter at the Schenectady protest.

IWW involvement in this campaign has emphasized visibility. Sub-zero temperatures, high winds, blazing heat, police harassment and heated discussions have been typical of the picket lines in '95. These demonstrations have been largely held at area McDonald's—they're everywhere, with high volume vehicular and foot traffic, allowing hundreds of leaflets to be distributed. Mostly these opportunities to meet other working people, hear their stories and perhaps get them involved in the process have been invaluable.

"I make \$5 an hour. That doesn't begin to cover" basic necessities like good food and dignified living conditions, data entry worker Tina told picketers. She couldn't afford an apartment without sharing expenses with her fiancée. Tina also spoke

of money (we estimate they've already paid out somewhere in the neighborhood of \$5,000 for this little adventure—and since I am unemployed they have no realistic chance of ever collecting a dime). It is not at all unlikely that if Wallitsch orders a new trial the bingo hall would conclude that the harassment value is outweighed by the cost, and just drop the whole thing.

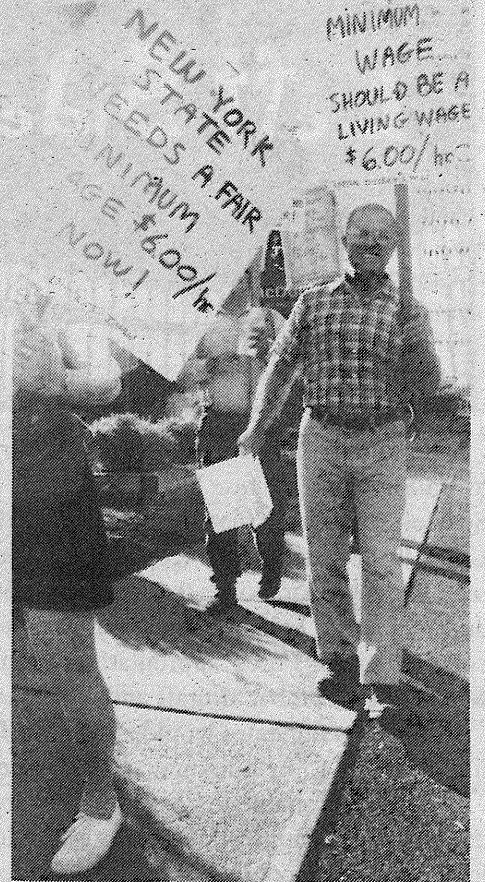
Wallitsch could also grant the motion and order a directed verdict. That would mean that I would still be technically guilty of defamation, but the part of the jury's verdict concerning damages would be set aside, and no damages of any sort would be awarded. I can live with that, and this is the "best-case scenario" we are hoping for.

We believe, however, that Wallitsch will summarily dismiss the post-trial motion. (But he may surprise us. Stranger things have happened.) We are pretty confident that we can win on appeal, since most of Wallitsch's rulings were simply wrong.

On the other hand, there are now several possibilities involving the NLRB. All of those unfair labor practice charges we have filed will go to trial on September 18. The bingo hall is looking at about \$30,000 in back pay, and they know that they haven't a prayer on earth of winning if it goes to trial (the only defense the bingo hall has offered so far is a jurisdictional one—they are arguing that the bingo hall is not large enough to fall under NLRB jurisdiction).

Anyway, the bingo hall is sufficiently nervous about the trial to offer to reach a settlement. Four months ago, the union and the bingo bosses worked out a settlement

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about harassment from her boss, lousy benefits, and the possibility of a layoff from a subcontractor for corporate giant General Electric.

Grocery clerk Jim talked about his dead-end job prospects, a nagging work-related back injury, and his boring \$5 an hour position where he frequently gets no lunch break. "You've got some good ideas here," he said, encouraged that someone else shared his views.

Several McDonald's workers came out on break time to pick up a Wobbly leaflet.

Public support for a minimum wage hike in New York State is strong. Federal and state governments will not act. It's really time for the people to decide.

"If we could just get together," one observer told picketers, they could not stop us."

Capital District IWW plans to conduct a larger scale "people's march for the minimum wage" this fall. Contact them through your IWW directory.

—X341883

## —Wob Action Alert— Protest World Bank and IMF Policies

Protests are scheduled in Washington, DC, October 9-12 while the directors of the World Bank and the International Monetary Fund (IMF) hold their annual meeting there. The protests are being called by the World Bank 50 Years is Enough Campaign and the National Commission For Democracy in Mexico (NCDM).

The World Bank and the IMF are directly responsible for the destruction of the planet while promoting classism, racism, sexism, genocide of indigenous cultures and countless other crimes.

The Burlington IWW Group has endorsed this call for direct action. If you are tired of "business as usual" and wish to show your opposition in DC, please contact the IWW at the Native Forest Network's Eastern North American Resource Center *immediately* at 802/863-0571 for ride coordination and housing potential.

There will also be a grassroots forum Oct. 7-8 for development activists and others interested in examining the impact of World Bank/IMF policies in terms of their impact on upon working people and on developing alternative conceptions of development that focus on empowering working people and improving the quality of their lives (rather than transferring their already meager wealth to local elites and the transnational corporations).

## PREAMBLE TO THE IWW CONSTITUTION

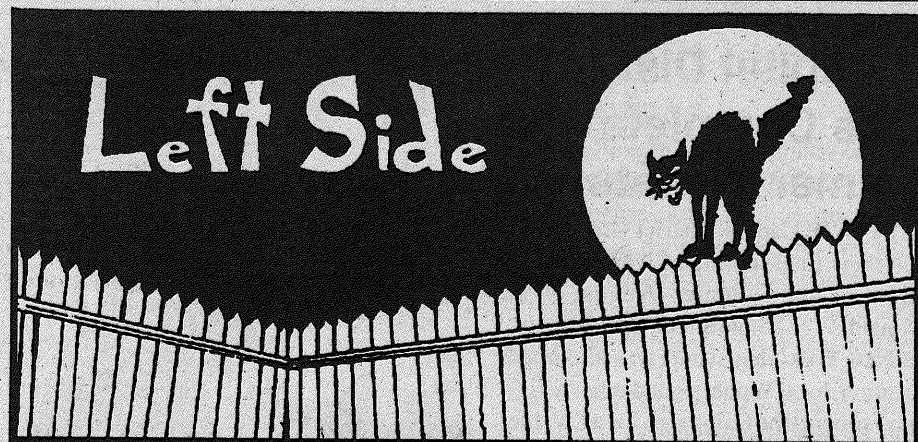
**The working class and the employing class have nothing in common.** There can be no peace so long as hunger and want are found among millions of the working people and the few, who make up the employing class, have all the good things of life. **Between these two classes** a struggle must go on until the workers of the world organize as a class, take possession of the means of production, abolish the wage system, and live in harmony with the Earth.

**We find** that the centering of the management of industries into fewer and fewer hands makes the trade unions unable to cope with the ever-growing power of the employing class. The trade unions foster a state of affairs which allows one set of workers to be pitted against another set of workers in the same industry, thereby helping defeat one another in wage wars. Moreover, the trade unions aid the employing class to mislead the workers into the belief that the working class have interests in common with their employers.

**These conditions can be changed** and the interests of the working class upheld only by an organization formed in such a way that all members in any one industry, or in all industries if necessary, cease work whenever a strike or lockout is on in any department thereof, thus making an injury to one an injury to all.

**Instead of the conservative motto**, "A fair day's wage for a fair day's work," we must inscribe on our banner the revolutionary watchword, "Abolition of the wage system." **It is the historic mission of the working class to do away with capitalism.** The army of production must be organized, not only for everyday struggle with the capitalists, but also to carry on production when capitalism shall have been overthrown. By organizing industrially we are forming the structure of the new society within the shell of the old.





Behold, Fellow Worker readers, your taxes are ever well at work. According to Ira Shorr in *In These Times*, cold war weapons like the B-2, the F-22 and the Seawolf submarine that were originally designed to combat the erstwhile Soviet Union in the next century keep marching on. "Congress' determination to disregard reality creates paradoxes that rival the most demented logic of the American arms build-up at the height of the cold war. For example, production of the F-22 will compel the Air Force to prematurely retire F-15 fighters, which are already the world's best combat aircraft and will likely remain so until 2014 and beyond."

"The United States would essentially be throwing away years of useful service life for the F-15 by pursuing an arms race with itself."

The questionable logic of the Air Force apparently spills over into the rest of the aeronautic industry. One pilot had told his superiors that he was not qualified to operate a particular aircraft. He accepted the assignment only when he was told to accept it or resign. That is according to two colleagues of the pilot whose American Eagle plane crashed near Morrisville, North Carolina last December. Obviously the superiors who ordered him to fly that plane or take a walk were not riding that particular plane. No wonder that I purchase an airline ticket with a bit of trepidation.

We still keep hearing from these English Only people, and the tireless argument is that two or more languages in an area can only create dissension and eventual warfare. They hold fast to that argument despite being shown that areas like Switzerland have four national languages and haven't had any war in over 700 years. On this continent, before the European invaders came, hundreds of languages were spoken here and compared to their European counterparts lived in relative harmony and brotherhood. I then remind them that the various factions in the former Yugoslavia who are currently engaging in an orgy of fratricide all happen to speak the same language. Apparently language is not the cause of strife between different segments of our species. There's nothing wrong in knowing a language or two aside from the language one grew up with.

Our politicians are wringing their hands over what's happening over in Bosnia. Yours truly is likewise appalled whenever common working folk have nothing better to do but be inveigled by their masters into killing each other. As for the indignation of our politicians, I am inclined to be a little suspicious that perhaps they are looking for an excuse to use their excess F-22s and perhaps the outmoded F-15s. I trust our politicians about as far as I can toss a diplodocus.

Many hands are being wrung by our news media over that's happening in the former Yugoslavia, but we seem to hear nothing about the same thing going on in Burma, except for left-wing rags like the *Industrial Worker*, *Synapse Messages* of Chicago and other such criers in the wilderness. Surprisingly enough, that great endorser of Freedomland's foreign policy, the *National Geographic*, had a surprisingly good article on Burma in one of its recent issues and Hollywood has even made a film on the situation there, but the boob tube, to which most of us are exposed to, has yet to make a peep.

We must question what makes Bosnia newsworthy while Burma is being ignored by our news pundits. There obviously is some commercial reason behind it. Apparently we can trust our news media as much as we can our politicians.

— C.C. Redcloud

## Bingo Case Drags On...

*continued from page 3*

that called for the bingo hall to pay part of the back wages, drop the suit against me and compensate me for my aggravation. In exchange, the union would not ask that any of the fired workers be reinstated, would not seek to renew the contract, and would agree not to file any further unfair labor practice charges based upon previous violations of the contract. However, one worker balked at the settlement, believing she was entitled to substantially more back wages, and Allied withdrew its offer.

So there has been no further official talk of a settlement. But there has been some unofficial talk. Apparently, the bingo hall is willing to pay the workers, but is not willing to drop the suit against me. That would clear up the situation as far as the bingo workers go — they would finally get the money due them, which is a big victory for us — but it would leave me still hanging in the wind. So at that point, I would have no other option but to continue with the appeal process.

Lenny Flank X341341

## Direct Action Blocks Russian Nuclear Sub

Workers at a major shipyard barred Russia's newest nuclear-powered submarine from setting out to sea in a protest over back wages, the ITAR-Tass news agency reported Sept. 7. Several workers at the Vostok yard near Vladivostok commandeered a tugboat and blocked the entrance to the harbor for four days straight, preventing the Dragon submarine from leaving.

**Letters...** *continued from page 2*

the failure of our class to seize the world and reorganize it on a sounder basis lies with ourselves. The majority of our class have allowed themselves to be exploited, oppressed, divided and sold-out. And we can end this sorry state of affairs only by organizing for our own self-emancipation, and taking control of our destiny into our own hands. But does this excuse the record of the CP? I think not.

—Jon Bekken

## Did You Renew Your Sub?

## Capitalist Barbarity

Oklahoma authorities rushed a death row inmate to the hospital August 10th after he attempted suicide. When Robert Breechen regained consciousness they executed him the next morning after allowing a final statement which couldn't be heard except by his guards because the microphone to the observation room wasn't working. So eager to send folks to the gallows (actually they used lethal injection) are our rulers that they refuse to allow their designated victims to cheat the hangmen by taking their own lives. Such energy might be better turned from the barbarism of capital punishment to the urgent task of punishing capitalist barbarity.

As I write this column, today's Boston Globe reports on an insurance executive charged with beating his wife to death with a rock, slicing open her chest, removing her heart and lungs, and impaling them on a wooden stake. While bosses kill scores of workers every day and get rewarded with stock options, profit sharing and pay hikes larger than most of us will see in our entire lives, this sort of small-scale operation is apparently considered gauche.

Another page reports that an area firm, Hollingsworth & Vose, has been hit with a \$790,000 judgment for its part in putting asbestos filters on Kent cigarettes in the 1950s (they sold this as a health measure). While the filters slowly killed smokers, they killed the workers who made them more rapidly. A study of 33 men who worked in the plant that manufactured the filters found that 20 had died of asbestos-associated diseases (another eight had died of natural causes when the study was done). Hollingsworth & Vose was warned by health inspectors of dangerous levels of asbestos dust in the plant, but ignored the problem, apparently relying on an indemnity agreement written in their manufacturing contract that required cigarette maker Lorillard to pay any legal costs and damages.

Meanwhile Lewis Laramie, a veteran rail conductor, was murdered by Conrail bosses at their Selkirk, NY yard Aug. 28. FW Laramie was chopped into pieces when he was run over by a train while helping maneuver the train he was working. A year ago Conrail cut the number of people on train crews in the yard from three to two, eliminating the trainman who observed maneuvers and relayed signals to avoid this sort of "accident." "It's economics," a bitter local union official said. "Just like every other big company, they see the chance to save a few bucks and they grab it."

## Corporate Anorexia

After years of corporate cost cutting, the bosses are finally beginning to wonder whether they might have cut too deep. "After nearly a decade of frantic cost-cutting, the downside of downsizing is beginning to take its toll," the *Wall Street Journal* (July 5) reports. Decimated sales staffs can't make sales, research and development languish, and accountants run the show — counting pennies while the business slowly dies. An American Management Association study found that only half of companies that "downsized" between 1989 and 1994 saw profits rise. About a third improved productivity. But nearly all reported that workers' morale had plummeted.

## Economic Recovery

We're in the midst of an economic recovery here in Freedomland, and have been for years. That's why, to quote a headline from the *Wall Street Journal* of a few weeks ago, "More Workers Are Cracking Their Nest Eggs." Lower-paid workers, hard-pressed to get by in these days of prosperity, are taking out loans against their retirement plans in record numbers in order to afford cars, homes, tuition, etc. Under IRS rules

they have to pay the loans back through payroll deductions, further aggravating their financial woes. If they get fired or leave, the entire amount becomes due. If they can't pay, the boss grabs what's left of their pension and the IRS taxes the loss as income.

The US Bureau of Labor Statistics report that inflation-adjusted wages fell last year to their lowest level since 1981. Millions of full-time workers fall below the official poverty line, and the Rand Corpora-

tion reports that the median African-American and Hispanic couple approaching retirement has liquid assets (excluding home ownership) of less than \$500.

## Editor's Notebook

### One Minute Early

Four Cambridge, Mass. postal clerks have been reprimanded for punching in for work at 8:59 a.m. when their shift began at 9. If the offense was repeated, they were warned, they faced "severe disciplinary action," including suspension or firing. The workers' entrance to the Cambridge post office proclaims that "the best postal employees in the world" work there...

### And Six Years Later

Merhan Nasserli has been living in the Charles de Gaulle Airport in Paris since 1989, prohibited from entering or leaving France because he lacks a passport or visa. While the authorities keep him in limbo, apparently assuming that a person without proper papers must not actually exist, airport workers bring him food and newspapers to help pass the days.

### Workers Want Unions

Tom Donahue is now chief piecard of the AFL-CIO, though it's far from clear who will win the post when the AFL-CIO meets later this month. Meanwhile, a new survey shows that most people want stronger unions. 58 percent of respondents thought a "stronger labor union movement speaking out for the interests of working Americans" would improve the country, while only 27 percent thought it would make things worse. Eleven percent thought unions were very strong today (where do they live?) and another 37 percent saw unions as being somewhat strong. But only 22 percent believed unions currently do a good or excellent job of "representing the interests of working Americans." Support for unions was stronger among 18 to 29 year olds than among the general population.

The AFL-CIO's present dismal reputation didn't just happen — it was built brick by brick over many decades by union scabbing, official corruption, refusal to organize, and acquiescence in the system of wage slavery that strips us of our dignity, our rights, and, too often, our very lives.

### Benchmarks of Capitalism

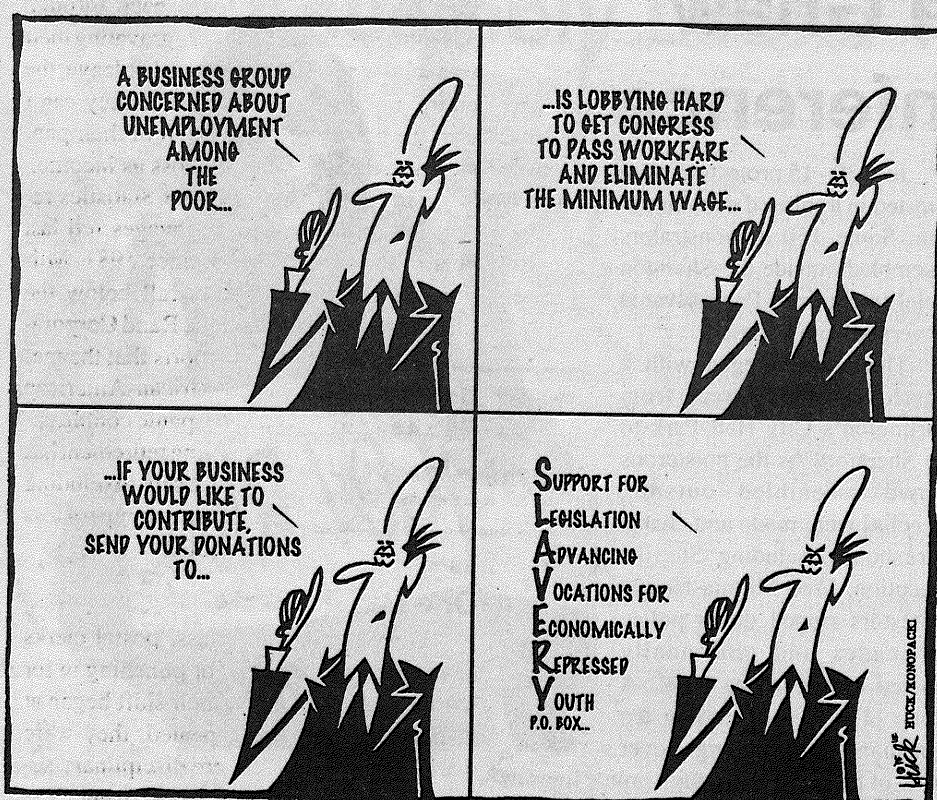
According to the Centre for Economic Investigation for the Caribbean, the minimum cost of living for a Dominican family of four in 1993 was \$276 per month. Westinghouse, one of the major US multinationals operating in the Dominican Republic, paid workers \$99 per month during this period. From 1980 to 1992, real wages declined by 46 percent under austerity programs mandated by the IMF and USAID.

Cholera is making a comeback in the former Soviet Bloc, as health and sanitation budgets are slashed in a desperate bid to please international bankers and investors.

The World Bank's 'World Development Report' for 1993, *Investing in Health*, reports that life expectancy in at least 11 African countries has declined since 1986 when World Bank 'Structural Adjustment Programs' were first applied. In Tanzania alone, female life expectancy has dropped six years over the period of 'reform.'

JB





The House Appropriations Subcommittee that deals with the Occupational Safety & Health Administration has voted to slash the agency's funding by 33 percent. Most of the cuts came from the enforcement budget, cut from \$145.8 million to \$98 million. The subcommittee also voted to bar OSHA from issuing a standard on ergonomic protection or enforcing a construction-related regulation that requires employers to protect workers who are exposed to a fall of at least six feet. The House bill would also cut the National Institute for Occupational Safety and Health by 25% to \$99 million, in keeping with plans to zero out the NIOSH budget over a four year period. If we hope to live to go home at the end of the day, we're going to have to protect ourselves...

## Action at the Test Site

They stole under cover of pre-dawn darkness: one bringing a mission of death, the other a message of life. Fifty years and a whole world of contrasting attitudes separated the crew heading for Japan and the crew aiming for the test site fence with clippers.

On April 6, 1945 the Enola Gay bore the bomb, Fat Boy, that was to change the course of history. Trust the military to mask its deadly intent in frivolous nomenclature!

When the journey of death was over, Hiroshima lay in ruins. 140,000 human beings had been incinerated, pulverized, vaporized. Incongruously, here lay a child's severed foot, there a dismembered hand that would never again wield a tool or hold a gun.

These were the lucky ones. Slow, painful death awaited thousands more. Yet even this was not enough. Our commander-in-chief must order the bombing of Nagasaki to send 70,000 more to their death.

It was a lie that those bombs were necessary to save American lives. According to the recently published handwritten diary of President Truman, Japan was already sending peace feelers through neutral channels in June. Why, then, were the bombs dropped? To impress Russia with America's might? To prove to our own citizens that their tax money had been profitably spent? Or, like mischievous children, just to find out for sure how destructive the invention could be?

### 1996 Labor History Calendar

The Chicago GMB and the IWW Hungarian Literature Fund have released the 1996 edition of their annual labor history calendar, featuring 13 photos of labor struggles from the US and around the world (ranging from a 1906 strike in Bisbee to South African workers demonstrating against Mobil's plans to sell the company they built out from under them) and hundreds of notes commemorating important dates in the struggle to build a better society.

Copies are \$8.50 each, post-paid, or \$5.25 each for orders of 5 or more. Write: PO Box 204, Oak Park IL 60303-0204

About fifty people from the Nevada Desert Experience showed up at the test site. But it's the Catholic Workers who concern us here, 25 vigilers and five men pledged to hard-shell civil disobedience. 4:30 a.m. Jeff Dietrich and his collaborators (one fellow Catholic Worker, one Franciscan priest, two AFSC men) made their way to the fence that defines the perimeter of the test site. Their plans called for slitting the wire to allow illegal entrance to the site, then setting up an altar to commemorate the victims of the A-bombs.

The light of dawn revealed a couple of sheriff cars parked a block away. What to do? There was a pause, a meeting of minds, while Jeff, his flamboyant red shirt inviting official attention, went on clipping and snipping, folding the wire neatly around each post. The sheriffs continued to watch and wait while Jeff clipped 450 feet of wire. Was the law deliberately providing Jeff with plenty of evidence to bolster the case against him in court? Jeff, seasoned activist, was jubilantly prepared for his shackled hands to be bound to the belt around his waist. Then it was off to the open holding area especially provided for civil disobedients who show up every year. The four other cd's would soon be joining him, then be promptly released.

Jeff called out to the vigilers, "Can you get me some water?"

"Just wait till I sue them for depriving my husband of water," warned Catherine, another activist, as she passed the bottle over the fence to the sheriff.

Be it noted, lots of ice cold water was provided later arrestees that morning.

An hour later Jeff was driven away amid encouraging shouts from his supporters. His trial was set for Sept. 14.

In solidarity with out star performer, and particularly in observance of the day, ten Catholic Workers gathered on the metal framework that marked the test site entrance.

"To the victims of Hiroshima and Nagasaki, we apologize." Deep bow.

## Traitors to their Class

The Editor has scowled at me a bit about my enthusiasm for the case of Mumia Abu-Jamal. He's concerned that I'd turn the *Industrial Worker* into a one issue rag like too many left wing papers. Nah. I recognize that we have many battles to fight. But Mumia is a very important one. The editor and I do agree that it has to be an ongoing story. I won't give it my whole column this month; but I do have to comment. August 17th is past and Mumia is still alive. If progressive people around the world hadn't taken up his cause, I do not believe that would be the case.

Wobblies can be very proud of the role we played in saving Mumia from being murdered by the state. Members from Hawaii to Great Britain demonstrated and wrote to protest his threatened execution. Wobs were arrested in demonstrations in San Francisco and at the Governor's conference in Burlington, Vermont. The

### from the desk of...

Burlington folks, primarily a coalition of Wobs and Native Forest Network activists, were proclaimed "an embarrassment to the state" by Vermont's Governor — high praise indeed. L.A. Wobs produced and distributed a video on Mumia to help get the word out. Philly Wobs produced a full page newspaper ad and raised funds from IWW groups to run it on the back page of the *Jamal Journal* which was distributed throughout the U.S. The entire IWW response was swift and effective.

There's still a long way to go. We have to get Mumia a new trial out of the clutches of Judge Sabo. But if the response of this summer is any indication, one of these days we'll have Mumia back on the streets helping to turn this world around.

.....

There's a letter to the editor in this issue from Joe Randell who takes us to task for the cover of the August issue which shows unionists at a Staley demonstration in Decatur bearing signs which declare "scabs are scum" and a noose attached to a sign saying simply "scabs." Joe isn't a Wobbly, but he has done some appreciated work in distributing our paper. So he isn't the enemy. But I definitely think his concern for scabs is misplaced.

My personal feeling about scabs is that they are traitors to their class. Joe says they're just trying to feed their families. But by scabbing they're going beyond that. They're taking away the food of the strikers who are also just trying to feed their families.

I was unemployed when Kroger grocery store workers were out on strike around here a few years back. The bosses were hiring scabs at higher wages than the workers were striking for. I was unemployed at the time. I walked the picket line and carried a sign which said "I'm unemployed. I'm Union. I'll starve before I'll scab!" I'd panhandle, even steal if necessary to feed my family. But I'd steal from the bosses, not from another worker who's just trying to get a fair shake.

Scabs bring down wages. As long as the boss knows there's always someone outside willing to take the job for less, or take a job from someone who complains about being exploited, there is little hope for anyone who's trying to get a living wage or decent working conditions.

I'm always going to be sympathetic to anyone who's out of work and trying to feed their family because of this lousy system where profit is more important than people. But that sympathy stops once someone crosses a picket line. Scabs are at best suckers and fools; at worst, as the picket sign in the picture said, they're scum.

Joe expresses support for using the government to help the unemployed. Hey, I'll collect my benefits when I'm out of work. But I have no illusion that they are being provided out of any benevolence on the part of the government. Government is a tool of the bosses. And any crumbs it throws to the workers and the unemployed are just to keep us from getting mad enough to dump both the government and the bosses off our backs.

I'm heading out with some fellow workers to a picket line in Sterling Heights, Michigan tonight (9/9) where newspaper workers are on strike against the Detroit Newspaper Association which runs both the *Detroit News* and *Free Press* and which is trying to bust the unions at both. It's the most intense labor struggle this area has seen in a while. Sterling Heights cops are having their overtime paid by the DNA to herd scabs into the plant and herd the trucks bearing scab newspapers back out. So if you thought private armies were illegal in the U.S., think again.

It's been getting more difficult for the cops lately as the militance of the strikers and their supporters has increased. When I was out there a few weeks ago the cops, who have used clubs, fists, pepper gas and tear gas against the strikers, were jeered for their pretense of being union members. Unionists don't bust strikes. Scab herders do. Police associations are company unions at best. Their members are willing tools of the bosses. They are no better than the scabs they herd. The next time I hear a cop whining about not being able to get a decent contract, my suggestion will be that they get a productive job rather than one in which one of their tasks is cracking the heads of their neighbors.

But where would we be without cops? How could we survive without law and order? I remember the cop slogan of the '60s: "Next time you're in trouble, call a hippie." Next time I'm in trouble, I think I'll call a Wobbly.

— Fred Chase, General Secretary-Treasurer

"To our fellow Americans who are deprived of the services they need while money is being spent for weapons of destruction, we apologize." Deep bow.

"To all those we have wronged by taking up arms against them in other wears, we apologize." Deep bow.

Then we stepped over the line.

"Men to the left, ladies to the right. And no trouble out of you," ordered the sheriff.

"Women to the right," quietly rebuked Catherine.

Our incarceration was brief: booking, then release. The government preferred to deal with one protester at a time.

— Dorice McDaniels



# Militant Protests for Mumia Gnaw at National Governors' Conference

On June 2, 1995, the Burlington IWW Group got a phone call from GST Fred Chase informing us that Mumia Abu-Jamal just received his death warrant. His voice was urgent and angry. I remembered a phone call on May 24, 1990 from then GST Jeff Ditz, his voice was also filled with anger and urgency when he informed me that Judi Bari and Darryl Cherney had just been bombed. One thing about us Wobs, we don't just sit and mourn — WE ORGANIZE!

BURLINGTON, VT—Militant protests against the scheduled August 17 execution of political prisoner and award-winning journalist Mumia Abu-Jamal erupted at the National Governors' Association Conference from July 29th to August 1st in Burlington. In attendance was Pennsylvania's Governor Tom Ridge who recently signed the Death Warrant for Mumia.

"We not only rained on the Governors' Conference parade," said Deb Ormsbee, "we pissed on it!" Ormsbee, of the Burlington Mumia Solidarity Coalition and the Industrial Workers of the World, was one of 24 arrested during the four-day conference. All 24 arrestees are out of the state's custody.

July 29— Parallel to the Governors' Conference, a People's Economic Democracy Conference was held in Battery Park. Over 2,000 participated in this conference. As a part of this alternative conference, organized in opposition to the Governors' Conference and Corporate America in gen-

eral, what is believed to be the largest march in this city's history was held through the streets of Burlington.

Inspired by the words of Safiya Bukhari, co-chair of the New York Committee to Save Mumia Abu-Jamal and a former Black Panther, a militant Mumia bloc was formed at the rear of the march and consisted of over 200 people from all around the northeast US and Canada. Vermont's Bread & Puppet Theatre led the march with a huge Save Mumia banner float.

Toward the end of the march, the extremely vocal Mumia contingent spontaneously stormed the Radisson Hotel where some of the governors were meeting, pushing police back until they reached the front doors. Following this confrontation, the marchers went to Key Bank where other Governors were meeting and demonstrated.

Later that day, Mumia supporters went to Lake Champlain's waterfront to confront the governors during their dinner. After they were stopped by police at the intersection leading to the governors' gala feed, the protesters rallied and blocked traffic.

While the governors were feasting the Lake Champlain Ferry passed the tent where they were gathered. A huge banner was unfurled over the side of the ferry proclaiming "FREE MUMIA" in full view of all the governors and their court and to the dismay of the U.S. Coast Guard who closed the harbor to all traffic but the ferry.

July 30— 15 protestors were arrested in a spirited demonstration. Some 150 demonstrators assembled outside the Sheraton Hotel to confront Pennsylvania Governor Tom Ridge.

The protest began with a march up Main Street from Burlington's City Hall Park to the Sheraton. As the boisterous crowd assembled outside, speeches were made and chants were shouted including "Stop the execution. Free Mumia Now!" Protestors ripped down police barricades and continually pressed closer to the hotel. A group of fifteen, including ten Canadians, suddenly surged over a row of hedges and through police lines in an attempt to gain access. Police tackled and arrested the protestors, who were charged with unlawful trespass. "We are committed to freeing Jamal by any means necessary," said arrested protestor Jack Winston of Calais, Vermont.

July 31— For the third straight day demonstrators went to the streets. While President Clinton was addressing the governors at the Sheraton, eight people were arrested during an attempted road blockade in front.

Police dragged the arrested protestors over the asphalt of the roadway into the Sheraton grounds where they were thrown



photo: Langel/NFN

Pennsylvania Governor Ridge, who signed the Death Warrant for Mumia Abu-Jamal, was spotted during a protest.

into the back of a rental truck. One protestor, a black woman, had to be taken to the hospital for treatment. Other protestors were maced, as was a NBC affiliate cameraman. The eight arrested were taken to the South Burlington Correctional Facility and refused to cooperate with the authorities.

Earlier, 15 protestors who were arrested on the 30th went to court. Seven plead not guilty and eight no contest. Those pleading no contest were fined for unlawful trespass and one protestor's charge was dropped.

Other actions in Burlington on the 31st resulted in 19 arrests of the group ADAPT who stormed the Governors' Conference in wheel chairs. ADAPT is a radical advocacy group for the physically challenged.

August 1— Today's protest for Mumia Abu-Jamal, during the final day of the Governors' Conference, was taken to a new

continued on page 10

## Union Scabbing is Killing Us...

Continued from page 1

some of these people are union. And local asphalt workers (Operating Engineers, Teamsters and Laborers) are crossing the lines.

A local concrete company crossed our picket lines last summer, and a week later drove those same concrete trucks in last year's Labor Day parade.

Illinois Power (the local gas and electric utility) has crossed our picket lines since the lock-out began, as has Ameritech. The trucks cross our lines, but we don't know if these are "union" or management people.

Harmony Construction of Baton Rouge, Louisiana, is doing most of the maintenance work in the plant. This is a Class A Scab operation. A local non-union firm, Kelly Construction, is working with them. Kelly is owned by the "unionized" Bodine Electric. Both companies are using IBEW members for electrical work.

It is relatively rare for union pipefitters, painters, carpenters or millwrights to cross

picket lines into the Staley plant, since Harmony has replaced these union workers. (Although "union" construction millwrights from Lincoln, Illinois were scabbing in the Decatur Firestone plant until the Rubber Workers abandoned their strike.) But after the lock-out began, "union" pipefitters were crossing our picket lines until their jobs were finished. Then they were replaced by Harmony scabs.

There are also several local scab contractors doing the work previously done by UPIU 7837 or local union craft workers.

The good news is that Illinois Central no longer goes into the plant. For a while, supervisors were taking the trains in, but now they have hired a scab outfit to do this dirty work. This scab outfit is Decatur Junction, part of Pioneer Rail Road of Illinois, which is a part of Alabama Rail Road.

Other news... A scab got burned in the plant recently (and yes, union firefighters and union police crossed our lines), receiving 2nd and 3rd degree burns over nearly his entire body. He died a week later.

"Crackers," the corporate crime-fighting chicken of Fox's TV-Nation program, recently visited our and Caterpillar's picket lines. We expect a story to air soon.

I am trying to get exact information on scabbing at Caterpillar. It is common knowledge that IBEW members go in there, probably every day but at least five days a week. A local UAW member tells me that before the strike there were only 10 or 15 cars in the contractors' parking lot, but now there are between 60 and 75.

I also know of "union" carpenters crossing the line when the rubber workers were on strike at Firestone. For what its worth, Firestone and Caterpillar have exclusive gates for "Contractors Only"; Staley never had a "Contractors Only" gate.

I certainly appreciate your articles on "union" scabbing, and the article on union scab Mike Carrigan. (Carrigan is IBEW 146 president, and was recently elected to the Decatur city council on a labor ticket. His

local has been making cash contributions to the Staley workers, even while crossing the lines to scab on them.) If unions can't keep union people from crossing the line, how do we expect to keep non-union workers from crossing?

I am usually amazed at how accurate your information about Decatur is, but must make one correction. The June 30th company proposal still wanted 12-hour rotating shifts (you got that part right), but now they wanted us to go to days to nights and nights to days not every 30 days (as in the original proposal) but every six days! This proposal is the most ridiculous thing I've ever seen.

— J.R.

## Staley Hand in Till

The state of Illinois has ordered Staley to repay more than a million dollars in sales and utility tax exemptions it illegally claimed. Staley has received tax breaks worth about \$1.5 million per year (including property tax reductions and other local tax abatements). In exchange, Staley promised to keep at least 1,000 jobs in the Decatur plant. Since locking-out Staley workers in June, 1993, Staley has included 569 locked-out workers (in addition to the scabs who replaced them) in its annual eligibility certifications, continuing to profit off these workers even while forcing them on to the streets.

When Staley filed for the tax exemptions in 1992 under Illinois programs intended to increase employment it employed 1,760 workers in the state. Nearly 450 jobs were slashed in the months leading up to the lock-out of AIW/UPIU workers. Today Staley employs about 740 workers, less than half the number it employed before enrolling in these "job-saving" programs. Ironically, while the state is requiring Staley to repay hundreds of thousands of dollars in past tax credits, it recertified Staley for sales tax benefits under a 1994 filing in which the company pledged to keep at least 766 full-time jobs in the state

## Scab killed by Staley Bosses

James Lindsey died in early August of burns suffered because of inadequate safety training and A.E. Staley management's disregard for worker safety in its Decatur, Ill. plant. Lindsey was scabbing on locked-out Staley workers July 30 when a spark touched off a dust cloud at the Staley plant, severely burning 80 percent of his body.

At the urging of UPIU Local 7837, which represents the locked-out workers, the Occupational Safety and Health Agency sent investigators to the plant, accompanied by a member of the local's executive board. Local 7837 President Dave Watts said, "We continue to be gravely concerned about the lack of safety inside the Staley plant even though we are currently locked out of our jobs. Safety issues remain a vital part of our ongoing dispute with Staley."

## No More Scabbing!

When this article was distributed electronically, a Chicago unionist responded with the following:

Regarding the serious problem of union scabbing at Staley & CAT, ... I urge all unionists to support the resolution below, and take it (or one like it) to their locals and regional labor councils, with the purpose of bringing it to the AFL-CIO national convention this October...

The issue of union scabbing must be formally raised within the labor movement. With that end in mind, the War Zone Labor Conference, which took place in Decatur on June 24, passed a number of resolutions, one of which is the anti-union-scabbing resolution below:

Whereas, the struggles of UPIU Local 7837 at A.E. Staley Manufacturing, UAW at Caterpillar Inc., and URW at Bridgestone/Firestone have been for the essentials of the labor movement, the 8-hour day, fair grievance procedures, the right to collective bargaining, the right to safety and health, the right to seniority, and the right to human dignity; and

Whereas, the afore-mentioned unions have sacrificed long and hard for every worker worldwide, and recognizing that an injury to one is an injury to all;

Therefore, be it Resolved: That the AFL-CIO call on all of its affiliates and international allies to mobilize mass pickets at the affected sites domestically and abroad; and be it further

Resolved: That the AFL-CIO coordinate with all unions foreign and domestic actions to stop production, transportation of struck goods, and installation or use of struck goods.



# IWW Assembly Looks Toward Future

that accountability is important, some members have objected in practice to requiring receipts and detailed reports documenting the expenditure of union funds. Sometimes heated discussion around these issues followed the presentation of the GEB Chairperson's report. While some members argued that the GEB was being needlessly bureaucratic in its demands for accountability, others complained about past grants of IWW organizing funds (notably \$25,000 advanced for legal defense following the attempted assassination of IWW timber organizers in 1990) which were never properly accounted for, and insisted that the members were entitled to know how their funds were being spent.

## Education Workers Industrial Union

IWW members working in the education industry met September 2nd and decided to continue the process of launching the IWW's first formal Industrial Union since the decimation of the organization in the 1950s. For the past three years, education Wobs have been publishing the *Education Workers Organizing Bulletin*, discussing the form that Education Workers Industrial Union 620 should take, developing organizing literature, and building a stronger on-the-job presence. As the Assembly opened there were three education job branches, one of which recently won a victory against Stevenson College management (see article last issue). On Sunday we learned that a new Job Branch has just been organized at a Vermont high school. IWW membership in education has nearly doubled in the last two years, and the prospects for a successful launch of EWIU 620 in the next few months are quite promising.

The education industry is undergoing a continuing crisis as legislators slash funding, school boards and administrators contract-out a growing part of the work (including entire schools in some cities), business tries to impose a narrow job-training approach, and full-time workers are replaced by temporary and "casual" workers desperately scrambling for enough poorly paid jobs to keep food on the table and a roof over their heads. Working conditions and pay are collapsing, public and private sector education workers are being pitted against each other in a vicious competition to see who will work the cheapest, and the mainstream education unions with their emphasis on lobbying and political action have proven impotent. The need for an entirely new approach to education unionism has never been clearer, and increasing numbers of

the coming year.

Other industrial meetings were held with data processing workers, temporary workers and public service workers. The data processing workers discussed the need to develop literature on health issues related to computers which the industry is trying to sweep under the carpet, and to use their skills to bolster the IWW's use of new computer technologies and networks. The fellow workers were asked to form a permanent committee to promote and assist more effective utilization of computer resources by the IWW.

Public Service workers discussed the ongoing attacks on working conditions, as fewer workers are being called upon to take on increased work. Many public sector workers are prevented from striking or other industrial action, both by laws and by the need to continue essential services lest people die. However, the possibilities of quickie strikes, an open-mouth policy and other forms of direct action should not be overlooked. The IWW has one contract in the public service sector, and has union recognition at two small offices.

The industrial meetings were followed by women's and men's caucuses added to the agenda by delegates. Too few women workers are Wobblies, and participants in the women's caucus argued that this is at least in large part a result of problems in the organizational culture of the organization and in the way we present ourselves through the newspaper and in our graphics. Many women delegates called for changes in the way we conduct meetings to encourage more participation by women.

A resolution was adopted calling for having two co-chairs, at least one of which will be a woman, at all future IWW General Assemblies. A new women's column will be initiated in the *Industrial Worker*. And caucus members will continue discussions aimed at developing resource lists and other

materials to help women play a more prominent role within the union.

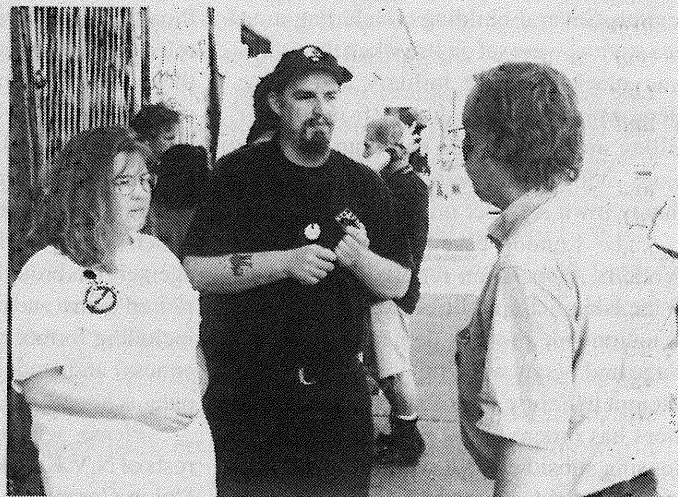
The men's caucus was largely devoted to discussing sexual power and the sexual division of labor. Participants agreed on the need for more active listening, and for less abrasive communications styles. One delegate argued that soul-searching was not enough, instead proposing that the IWW work to develop a Wobbly response to attacks on affirmative action. If we could develop and promote a specifically Wobbly perspective on this and other issues, he argued, that would go a long way toward bringing better gender and ethnic balance into the union.

## IWW Organizing

Reports from the caucuses were followed by a general discussion of IWW organizing strategy and policy.

Several delegates argued for a more focused strategy in which the IWW would target particular industries and workplaces where we have potential strength and concentrate our energies on them. Others agreed with the need for a more strategic approach to organizing, but argued that we also needed to be prepared to respond to other workers who came to us seeking assistance.

Many delegates argued for expanded training programs, a more detailed Organizing Manual, and a union-wide organizing committee with authority to field paid organizers and dispatch emergency financial assistance. Others argued that the union's financial condition did not permit such measures, and that successful organizing drives did not necessarily require large infusions of money.



Salt Lake City Wobs press a point with GST Fred Chase during a break in the proceedings—photos: Paul Poulos

possible to have an effective, functioning union without government certification. Jeff Stein argued that training in direct action strategy was at least as important as training in labor law, because direct action is the only way we can turn things around. "In countries with even more repressive labor laws than the United States workers fight and win strikes. We need to know the law, but we also need to be prepared to break laws" when necessary to defend our rights.

Other members discussed problems specific to organizing nontraditional workers and workers in collectives. While most workers work for traditional bosses, there are substantial numbers of workers working in "worker collectives." Self-management is under attack in many of these, and work-

*continued on page 9*

## Area Reports Highlight Wob Growth

**San Diego, CA**—There are three active members in San Diego, working to rebuild the group there. Until recently there was an active Wobbly in the NASSCO shipyard who was trying to organize there. A leaflet, "14 Ways to Improve Your Job," was well received by many workers, but also led to harassment by the bosses. Management says it will respect workers' right to speak out and organize only if at least two workers on the job are involved, so they are looking for more supporters before trying again.

**Santa Cruz**—Several Wobblies have moved in recent months, depleting the Branch's strength. The Kinko's drive collapsed after management slashed working hours while simultaneously increasing work loads. Many Wobblies continue to be active in homeless work, environmental issues, and the like, but at present there is not much specifically Wobbly activity under way.

**ASUC Recyclers**—The Branch is looking healthier, even though the Associated Students has slashed its recycling budget nearly in half (the original cuts were even more drastic, but \$30,000 was restored). They are looking ahead with optimism.

**Curbside Recyclers**—They have signed a new contract, and the entire work force is back in the union. East Bay IWW members are also active with Radio Free Berkeley, an unlicensed radio station which has been

supporting several organizing efforts. The new East Bay office has helped reorganize the Oakland-Berkeley area where most of the San Francisco Bay Area branch members live and work. They are planning to spin off as a separate branch. Several Wobblies are also working on a class action suit against the San Francisco police stemming from the arrest of some 300 demonstrators protesting the planned state murder of Mumia Abu-Jamal.

**San Francisco**—The Temp Workers are organizing again, although it is a difficult challenge. The branch has also revived its newsletter, *Wildcat*.

**Atlanta, GA**—FW Lorenzo Komboa Ervin reported that he has been working with the Atlanta Transit Riders Union to develop a coalition of transit workers and riders to fight proposed rate hikes to \$1.75. They have held several effective demonstrations, and transit police are responding with a frame-up against an ATRU activist.

**O'ahu, HI**—Two years ago there were nine members, they gained Branch status in December 1994. Since then the Branch has grown to 22 members, even while losing some to the mainland. An organizing campaign against Hawaiian Tropicals failed when the business went belly-up. IWW members have launched an organizing campaign among graduate teaching and research assistants at the University of Hawai'i at Manoa campus, and an Education Workers Industrial Union 620 Branch was recently chartered there. Local Wobblies also joined picket lines at a local hardware store, have been active in coalition efforts against the impending execution of Mumia Abu-Jamal, and are involved in protesting French nuclear



IWW education workers discuss organizing their industry

education workers are turning to the IWW.

Delegates circulated and briefly discussed two sets of proposed bylaws, agreed to submit a petition to the IWW General Executive Board for an industrial union charter and to continue discussions on bylaws and financial arrangements with the larger organization, added several new members to the EWIU General Organizing Committee, and decided to continue the present arrangements for the *Education Workers Organizing Bulletin*. Jon Bekken agreed to continue serving as EWIU coordinator in

testing and with more radical elements in the sovereignty movement.

**Chicago, IL**—Their main organizing effort has been at ACCO manufacturing, where a Wobbly has been organizing for several months against 12-hour days and six-day weeks. Management tried to set up a company union, so he infiltrated it. There have been some successes in agitating around specific issues, but there is much more organizing work to be done. Another local Wob is agitating among bike messengers for unionization. The Branch sponsored an anti-IMF and World Bank demonstration on May Day, and a successful 90th Anniversary bash in June.

**Boston, MA**—The Boston group is well on the road to becoming a branch again. Six people are attending monthly meetings.

**Southeast Michigan GMB**—Five new members have signed up since headquarters moved to Ypsilanti. The IWW is active at the Ann Arbor Tenants Union and in the Homeless Action Committee, which were recently successful in defeating proposed anti-homeless ordinances. The Branch has been sponsoring a labor film series, and has done extensive leafleting for Mumia.

**Capital District, NY**—Wobs are producing a monthly labor radio program, Project X, and organized five minimum wage demonstrations over the last year. Although these have been relatively small actions, they have drawn good press and kept the issue in the public eye. They will continue hammering on the need to increase the minimum wage over the next year.

**New York City**—The Branch has been inactive recently, but hope things will start to pick up. They see a need to organize solidarity activities around the Caterpillar

*continued on page 8*



## Iranian Workers Demand Rights

On April 4th some 500,000 residents (mainly young industrial workers working in Karaj Industries) of the shanty town "Islam Shahr" in South Tehran protested the lack of drinking water and high public transportation costs. At a spontaneous demonstration these basic demands soon extended to demanding the downfall of the Islamic regime. Several buildings, including a police station, were set on fire when the protest was attacked by the military and police. Demonstrators were shot at from the air, killing up to 50 people and injuring many more. 350 youths were arrested and the shanty town is under military siege.

The London-based Iranian Refugee Workers Association reports that workers in the Islamic Republic of Iran are engaged in nationwide protests demanding a living wage and better working conditions. In an attempt to defuse the situation, the government has ordered a 50 percent increase in housing subsidies. But workers say the increased subsidy covers only about 2% of the typical family's housing cost.

Government statistics show that the gap between the cost of living and workers' earning continues to widen. In the past few years, wages have risen by 35%, while prices of essential goods have risen by 40 to 50%. Even officials of the government-sponsored "Labor Houses" and the Labour Ministry admit the situation is becoming intolerable, and call for dramatic increases in Iran's minimum wage.

Many workers are turning to migrant labor in order to feed their families. The Ministry of Labour sponsors one such scheme, providing contract labor to South Korean employers. Workers are required to pay their own transportation and living costs from what remains of their \$260 monthly salary after the regime takes its 30% cut.

This report is accompanied by a pamphlet listing the names of 559 workers murdered by the "capitalists in Islamic garb."

## IWW Area Reports...

and Staley struggles.

**Lancaster, PA**—They have participated in Mumia demonstrations and joined a work day at the Ben Fletcher Center.

**Lehigh Valley GMB**—The branch is on the upswing again after the bingo struggle drained people's energy. They have been active in Mumia solidarity, and are looking to become active in Guatemalan solidarity campaigns again. FW Flank reported on the SLAPP suit against him (see article this issue). The Bingo boss continues to deny workers their rights, and the NLRB is trying to negotiate a settlement. If they fail, the unfair labor practice charges will go to trial later this month.

**Philadelphia GMB**—The Branch's energies have been devoted to two tasks, Mumia solidarity and hosting the assembly. They have made substantial progress on the Ben Fletcher Center, but much more work needs to be done. MonkeyWrench Press will issue several new titles in the next couple of months.

**Salt Lake City, UT**—The Branch is growing rapidly. They have been particularly active in Staley solidarity work, and also in organizing traveling construction workers. The Branch sponsored a successful May Day concert with Utah Phillips and Rosalie Sorrels, a march in solidarity with the EZLN in Chiapas which drew unwanted police attention, and has participated in two Mumia rallies which have drawn some people from outside the usual circles.

**Burlington, VT**—Last year they focused on Chiapas solidarity. This year they organized major Mumia demonstrations at the National Governors' Conference. They are proud to announce that the governor

## Belarussian Metro Unionists Seized

The presidents of the Union of Metro Workers and the Free Union of Metro Workers were arrested August 21, in retaliation for their role in a strike that began August 17th. Strikers were demanding payment of back wages and the immediate dismissal of their boss because of his illegal refusal to negotiate a new collective agreement. Although the authorities have announced the release of the unionists, as of September 1st they were still imprisoned and the threat of prosecution for violating Soviet-era anti-labor laws was still hanging over their heads.

Sixty workers were fired after the Belarussian authorities outlawed the strike, which subsequently collapsed. Metro management has brought in scab workers, mainly retired metro and railway workers (but also including former drivers sacked for drunkenness) and students from the metro company school.

Please send letters protesting the arrests of N.V.Kanakh (President of the Trade Union Committee at the Metro of Minsk) and V.M.Makartchuk (President of the Free Union of Metro Workers) and calling for reinstatement of the fired workers to: Council of Ministers of the Republic of Belarus, Mikhail Nicolaevitch Tchiguir, Prime Minister, fax: +375-172-296665 and Aleksander Grigorievitch Lukashenko, President of the Republic of Belarus, fax: 375-172-260610. Solidarity messages and copies of protest letters can be sent to: Association of Independent Trade Union in Belarussian Industry, c/o Aleksander Bukhostov, Gennadi Fedinitch, Co-Presidents of the Association, fax: 375-172-239792, address: 220126 Minsk, Belarus, Pr.Masheroval, d.21, kom.1312

## Women Workers Get Less, UN Says

Any way you add it, subtract it, multiply it or divide it, women end up with less.

Two mathematical formulas that measure women's status, published recently in the United Nations' 1995 *Human Development Report*, confirmed what most women already knew: "no society treats its women as well as its men."

Women in the 130 countries studied are worse off than men in terms of their access to wages, education and jobs. Although no country offered women full equality in these areas, Sweden, Finland, Norway and Denmark came closest, followed by the U.S. in fifth place (down five places from its 1970 ranking).

Although the lowest rankings went to poverty-stricken countries such as Afghanistan and Mozambique, overall the study finds no correlation between overall income and women's status.

China, for example, is 10 places above Saudi Arabia, although its real per capita income is only a fifth that of the oil-rich kingdom; Thailand outranks Spain despite the fact its real per capita income is less than half of Spain's; and Poland is 50 places above Syria, although the two countries have roughly the same per capita income.

"Gender equality can be pursued — and has been — at all levels of income. What it requires is a firm political commitment, not enormous financial wealth," the report concludes.

The report also found systematic ex-donated them as an "embarrassment to the State." They are interested in organizing a Wobbly contingent for the upcoming World Bank meeting in Washington, DC. The World Bank moved its meeting to the US in an effort to avoid protesters, so they would like to make sure the bankers are given an appropriate reception.



*The Siberian Confederation of Labor (SKT) was founded February 24-25th at a conference held in conjunction with the second regional conference of Western Siberian KAS (Anarcho-Syndicalist Confederation). Participating in forming the SKT were the Omsk Labor Confederation, the Tomsk Labor Confederation, the Labor Confederation-Syndicalist Trade Union Seversk, the SOTSPROF from Tomsk, the trade union of school N49 (Tomsk), and representatives of independent peasant organizations from Kargasok region. The conference issued an appeal to anarcho-syndicalists in the CIS (ex-USSR), condemned the war in Chechnya, and agreed to a program of anti-war activities. The SKT Secretary can be contacted at: 636070, Russian federation, Tomsk area, Seversk-13, PO Box 19.*

clusion of women from economic, political and professional fields.

Some developing countries do relatively better in women's empowerment than in the development index. While most countries have moved to close the gender gap, many have jumped ahead or slipped backwards at different rates over the past decade.

Looking at 79 countries with comparable data for the period 1970-92, the report finds that the United States ranked first in 1970 but slipped to fifth place by 1992. Canada moved from the number two spot to ninth place; Belgium, Spain, the Netherlands, and Luxembourg also moved down several ranks.

## Ontario Govt.Cuts Attack Women

The government of Ontario has launched a vicious attack on women and children with cuts to welfare, pay equity, public housing, health care, daycare centres, and rent controls.

The politicians ran on a promise of 'workfare' to put welfare recipients to work (raising a family is not considered work). Cuts of 21% reduction in welfare benefits are to take effect October 1. No work programs or jobs have been announced. Many daycare jobs were eliminated, the freeze on pay equity means lower pay for working women, and jobs are to be destroyed in health and other government departments.

Instead, welfare recipients will be 'allowed' to go out and find their own job, and will get to keep their pay up to the amount of their previous welfare cheque (well below the 'poverty line').

Seventy percent of Ontario welfare recipients are single women with young children at home. The absence of affordable daycare makes it impossible for them to work outside the home.

Down at the Food Bank people are saying "The jails will be full" as people turn to stealing in order to eat. "The jails are already full," adds another.

Discussion among the hungry also turns to ways of getting in jail, which at least offers a warm place to sleep. The favored method seems to be 'Dine and Dash' — have a nice meal in a restaurant, then walk out.

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Give to the IW Sustaining Fund

## Are Unions Making A Comeback?

Unions in several Latin American countries are making a bid to fill the vacuum left by the credibility crisis of opposition parties, using strikes and protests fuelled by popular frustration with the effects of structural adjustment policies.

In Costa Rica, four workers were killed and dozens wounded when police attacked strikers August 4th. A few days later six workers were injured when police attacked striking teachers and public employees marching on the Presidential residence. The government refuses to negotiate until teachers abandon their strike and return to the classroom.

General strikes in Panama and Costa Rica and protest demonstrations in Argentina's interior are indicative of the resurgence. In early August, nearly 100,000 Costa Ricans marched through downtown San Jose with posters proclaiming "we are the opposition."

This was a clear reference to a pact signed three months ago by the country's two most influential political leaders, President Jose Figueres and former President Rafael Angel Calderon, designed to speed up approval of the government's structural adjustment plan.

The general strike in Panama was sparked by President Ernesto Perez Balladares' shift towards neoliberalism, and the approval of a new labor code which strips many worker rights.

## Turkish Workers Strike

700,000 public workers staged a one day sit-in general strike across Turkey August 8 in a bid to force the government to grant pay hikes necessary to catch up with galloping inflation. Government workers joined fellow workers in state enterprises with slow-downs, since Turkey's constitution prohibits civil servants from striking.

The government is offering a 5.4 percent wage hike. Workers say the offer is unacceptable amid economic forecasts of an inflation rate expected to reach 100 percent by the end of 1995.

Prime Minister Tansu Ciller says that public employees are paid better than workers for private firms. Union leaders reject this argument, suggesting that the lavish salaries paid government officials are a more appropriate benchmark for comparison.



## Wages Down

Excerpted from a report by the Economic Policy Institute, *Profits Up, Wages Down*, by Dean Baker and Lawrence Mishel:

"Growing inequality has created a wedge between economic growth and rising living standards.... In the 1990s, overall wage growth has been dampened by a redistribution of income from labor to owners of capital as profitability, the economic return to capital (or assets), has reached historically high levels. The growth of wage inequality that began in the 1980s and persisted throughout the 1990s has prevented middle- and low-wage earners from achieving higher wages and has forced them to accept reductions in their real wages, as earnings failed to keep up with inflation.

"Specifically, the findings show:

- After-tax profit rates in 1994 were the highest in 25 years and greater than at the end of earlier postwar recoveries. Profit rates have increased even further in 1995.

- The higher profitability of the 1990s has not been associated with an acceleration of investment or productivity growth.

- Over the 1989-95 period and even during the recovery years since 1991, inflation-adjusted hourly wages have been stagnant or declining for the vast majority of the workforce, including: the bottom 80% of men, the bottom 70% of women, men with a four-year college education as well as those without college degrees, women with less than a four-year college degree.

- The hourly wage of the median male worker has declined 1% per year over the 1989-94 period, continuing the trend apparent over the prior business cycle from 1979-

89. The wage of the median female worker declined over the 1993-95 period, a sharp contrast to the modest 0.5% annual growth experienced over the 1979-93 period.

- Increased profitability in the 1990s is the result of cost restructuring that has not led to greater efficiency but has increased the economic return to investments. Had profit rates remained at their 1952-79 average during the 1990s, hourly compensation would have been \$120 billion, or 4.0%, higher for all workers in 1994, and 6.1% higher for noncollege-educated workers.

- Higher after-tax profit rates are partially due to lower taxation. Had the tax rate on capital income remained at its 1952-79 average then government revenue would have been \$40 billion more in 1994, an amount equal to 25% of the fiscal deficit that year."

While the report does not state this explicitly it is not too difficult to trace this economic disaster to the busting of labor unions and the deterioration of working class organizations. For a copy contact: Economic Policy Institute, 1660 L Street, NW Suite 1200, Washington, D.C. 20036

### Scab Papers Blocked...

out all night!

Finally about 5:30 or 6 most folks decided to leave. The cops finally opened the line in the early morning (after it was light) and the trucks finally got out. Excitement and determination, some hope mixed with a vision of justice, well-organized pickets, and some flexibility in tactical responses to unexpected company/cop strategies made this an incredible, and successful experience for all of us. (Alec and Mike)

resolution board or a panel of mediators to intervene in such disputes at an early stage. But while all delegates agreed on the need for action, there was not similar agreement on the best approach towards a solution. The O'ahu General Membership Branch has offered to develop a detailed proposal for presentation to the entire membership.

#### Other Business

Delegates unanimously approved resolutions demanding a new trial for Mumia Abu-Jamal, whom we are convinced was wrongfully sentenced to death on the basis of his political convictions, approved a delegation to attend the upcoming CNT (National Confederation of Labor - Spain) congress as observers, and called upon AFL-CIO unions to stop scabbing on the locked-out A.E. Staley workers in Decatur, Illinois. (Several Wobblies joined a Mumia Solidarity contingent in the Philadelphia Labor Day Parade the next day.) A proposal will be sent to referendum to make the *Industrial Worker* editorship a two-year elected position (the editor is currently appointed by the General Executive Board).

An Audit Committee was elected to perform the annual review of the union's books and report to the membership, and IWW members were nominated for General Secretary-Treasurer and General Executive Board for next year.

### Resolutions

*Send the following resolution to Pennsylvania Governor Thomas Ridge, Judge Albert Sabo and each Justice of the Pennsylvania Supreme Court:*

**Resolved:** The 1995 General Assembly of the Industrial Workers of the World, convened in Philadelphia, PA on September 2nd and 3rd, wishes to express its grave concern over the case of death row prisoner Mumia Abu-Jamal. Mr. Jamal was convicted of murder thirteen years ago in a trial marked by numerous improprieties.

In addition, the Assembly is concerned that 80 percent of all death row prisoners are African-Americans.

This Assembly calls upon the authorities of the Commonwealth of Pennsylvania

## "Kaizen" = Bad Karma

Indiana politicians cheered the anti-union Subaru-Isuzu Automotive plant when it was built in Lafayette in 1989. Today the plant is eliciting harsh criticism. Subaru located its huge factory in Tippecanoe County due to lucrative cash handouts paid by county and state taxes. The handouts amount to roughly \$50,000 per job created.

Laurie Graham, now a professor of labor studies at Indiana University in Kokomo, worked at Subaru for six years. Her new book, *On the Line with Subaru-Isuzu: The Japanese Model and the American Worker*, blasts the anti-union management philosophy of Kaizen. In a kaizen-oriented shop, workers are encouraged to complain and blow off steam, but the complaints are just swept under the rug.

Such disregarded complaints have resulted in several lawsuits. A class action suit alleges violations of the Americans with Disabilities Act and negligence in knee and shoulder injuries, and wrist injuries such as carpal tunnel syndrome. These injuries are caused by mandatory 12-hour shifts. "I have never worked so hard for so long in my life," Graham said. "If workers don't organize there, the injuries will continue."

African-American inspection worker Reginald Mallett filed a separate lawsuit. He says he was the victim of racist slurs, jokes, prejudice, and even physical threats. In 1992, Mallett was officially reprimanded for refusing to accept a verbal apology instead of filing a written complaint when a co-worker threatened to burn a cross on his lawn.



to affirm Mr. Jamal's petition for a new trial; to immediately pass a moratorium on the death penalty in this state; and to prevent Judge Sabo, who has proven to be biased, from hearing this case.

**Resolved:** To express solidarity with the Staley workers in their continuing struggle, and call upon our Fellow Workers to bring a halt to the union scabbing which is undermining their struggle.

### Nominations

*The following candidates were nominated for IWW office for 1996. Many have not yet indicated whether they will accept*

In another Indiana labor struggle, the Department of Environmental Management handed Lafayette residents a temporary defeat by approving A.E. Staley's request to double air emissions of propylene oxide. The August 25 decision defies public outcry against the company. Lafayette residents were given only 18 days to appeal the decision. In one such appeal, the rehiring of all locked-out AIW-UPIU workers in Decatur, Illinois was listed as one of the conditions that Staley would have to meet before neighbors would consent to the pollution permit.

— Ryan Amptmeyer

### America Online Attacks VA Support Workers

America Online Inc. has asked 250 workers in Vienna, VA to move to Jacksonville, FL and accept a pay cut. The relocation affects most of AOL's Vienna-based customer service staff.

"It's more advantageous for us to have customer support centers in other parts of the country," where costs of living and business expenses are lower than in the DC area, said AOL spokeswoman Pam McGraw.

There are three AOL service centers — in Vienna, Jacksonville and Tucson, AZ — where employees answer subscriber questions about configuring software and modems, sending e-mail, billing, and navigating the service.

Workers who make the move would face a pay cut of about one-third, from \$11 an hour to \$7 an hour.

*nomination, nor have candidates yet been checked to ensure eligibility.*

#### General Secretary-Treasurer

Fred Chase (Ann Arbor), Deke Nihilson (San Francisco)

#### General Executive Board

Gnat Blackrag (San Francisco), Kevin Brandstatter (Swindon), Trish D'Amore (Lehigh Valley), Franklin Devore (San Francisco), Ray Elbourne (Sidney), Lorenzo Komboa Ervin (Atlanta), Lenny Flank (Lehigh Valley), Mike Garcia (Salt Lake City), Dennis Good (Reading), Heather Harmon (Salt Lake City), Chris Vad-Hyphus (Santa Cruz), Marc Janowitz (San Francisco), Crouton Jones (Santa Cruz), Tom Jordan (Williston VT), Dave Karoly (Berkeley), Ingrid Koch (Youngstown), Geoff Kroppel (Ann Arbor), Fred Lee (Leicester), Ray Levy (San Francisco), Mirabai Martin (New York City), Bill Meyers (Mendocino CA), Arthur Miller (Tacoma WA), Tai Miller (Santa Cruz), Deke Nihilson (San Francisco), Rick Page (Reading), Paul Pasholk (West Jefferson OH), Greg Payson (Hackensack NJ), Penny Pixler (Chicago), Robert Rush (Berkeley), Rochelle Semel (Hartwick NY), Jeff Stein (Urbana IL), Maria Tomchik (Seattle), Zimya Toms-Trend (Seattle), Cameron Walker (Australia), Amy Westerholm (Seattle), Pete Wilcox (O'ahu), Terri Williams (Ottawa).

#### General Assembly

Members will choose between proposals to host the 1996 General Assembly from Burlington, Vermont, and Salt Lake City, Utah.

Ballots will be issued November 1.

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# Wobbling the Job...

*continued from page 1*

days per week, 12 hours per day, using these outhouses that were not cleaned in a timely manner and placed approximately 25 yards from the lunch tent. We had four 20-gallon jugs of non-potable water (no soap) to wash with, which were usually out of water anyway.

When I hired on, the job steward was an old scissorbill who sat in a tool trailer 1/4 mile away from the jobsite and sent material to us by trucks. The business agent came out one day and the men were bitching to him about not having a steward in the workplace. So he appointed the only local man who wasn't a foreman. The new steward happened to be a fellow Wobbly. Things began to change immediately. Our new steward wouldn't let the company slide on anything; in fact the old steward told him, "You're ruffling the wrong feathers, look out for yourself." The business agent was called almost daily about contract infractions, the superintendents were yelled at, the International was called in, and in general the FW had them toeing the line. All except the dry lunch shack and the outhouses.

Every week the steward would ask about the dry shack and porta-potties. Finally he told the General Foreman that if there was not anything done by Monday the men were going to wobble. (A wobble is a construction term for a walk-out.) He called the Business Agent on Friday afternoon and told him the same thing. The BA said "I don't blame you, try to get the electricians to go out with you." But by Monday morning the BA had lost his balls.

The plan was to come out of the building at 9:00 am coffee break and if there was no sign of a decent dry shack, pick up our lunch pails and keep going. The plan was passed on to several red card-carrying electricians who naturally agreed to wobble with us. At 9:00 am we came out of the building and were met by the Business Agent, the President of the Local, one member of the Executive Board, the Vice President of the company and all the Superintendents. The porkchoppers were waiting for the steward. As soon as he came out of the building they crowded around him for almost five minutes. Then the BA came over to where the crews were. He said he was there to keep them on the job. "These conditions are less than perfect, and not up to the letter of the contract. But they are far from intolerable, and I'm sure some of you have seen worse," the BA announced.

At that point five or six of us went to the office trailer and signed out. We were soon followed by about half of the 60-man crew. The steward, bound by the contract, had to stay. They had a couple of meetings with DSI, the contractor we worked for, and Micron Construction, the construction managers. The outcome of the meetings were that we were fired for insubordination and **blacklisted** from ever working there again. At that point our steward told the BA to go pick one of the suckasses who stayed on the job and appoint him steward, because he quit. In all, 29 pipefitters and eight electricians were fired that day. Several more electricians walked the day after.

At 6:00 am the next day we went to the job to get our checks. We were told to come back at noon for them. The men who stayed on the job were understandably nervous looking and embarrassed. One of the fitters who was fired, a woman, walked over to our group and asked in a loud voice, "Is this the group that has balls? I don't want to be with the wrong bunch." That got a pretty good laugh out of us, and made the scissorbills slink even lower. At noon I went out to the job. There were two big signs made of plywood along the road saying "DSI checks Gate 4." When I drove in I saw several

security guards with radios. I pulled up and asked two of them where Gate 4 was. They asked if I was after a DSI check and then told me they took all the checks to the hall and that I better leave. I decided since it was noon, I'd drive down to the lunch area and ask one of the foreman where the checks really were.

When I arrived there were only two people there. I later found out that all the contractors had changed their lunch period from noon to 11:00 am for that day so that the remaining workers would not see us. I saw one of the foremen and asked where my check was. He said, "It's right here, I just sent Jimmy up to the office for it, but I wouldn't get out of the car if I were you. They've got security all wound up about you guys." I had to sit there about five minutes waiting for my money and I saw all the security cameras on the roof were aimed at me. Three or four security guards stood about 20 yards away watching me.

This all happened the week before Labor Day, and I later learned a letter came out to the job thanking those who stayed on the job and giving them the Saturday before Labor Day off with pay. I went to the hall and filed a grievance, picked up my Travel Card, and headed for Portland, Oregon. When I got to the hall in Portland I heard the local in Boise had a call for 70 men and was having trouble filling it.

— Bob Madsen, X341372

# Governors Get Warm 'Welcome'...

*from page 6*

height. "Come on down or we'll come up and take you down," shouted a cop with bullhorn to a climber perched 200 feet above on the University of Vermont watertower. On that command a 20 by 40 foot banner was unfurled proclaiming FREE MUMIA.

The banner was in full view of the Sheraton where the governors, their aides and corporate sponsors were meeting. The banner was displayed from 8 am to 1:30 pm when the climber was taken into custody by the authorities at the official closing of the Governors' Conference.

In June of this year the Native Forest Network's (NFN) Eastern North American Resource Center, along with the Burlington Industrial Workers of the World (IWW), were catalysts in forming the Mumia Solidarity Coalition here. The NFN Resource Center's doors were open almost around the clock during the Governors' Conference, functioning as a communications center and gathering point.

Support of certain facets of Vermont's alternative community was tremendous. During the demonstrations food donated by local organic farmers was prepared free for the protesters. On Friday, July 28, Bishop Angell of the Catholic Diocese of Burlington issued a press release asking Pennsylvania Governor Ridge to rescind the warrant of execution for the four men scheduled for death in August. Bishop Angell joined Philadelphia Cardinal Bevilacqua who strongly encouraged Ridge, who is a Catholic, to block the death penalty.

Two women Mumia supporters breached Sheraton hotel security July 29 and set foot in the Emerald Ballroom where a plenary session of the Governors' Conference was taking place. The women were escorted out shouting, "Free Mumia Now!"

During Clinton's downtown visit and tour of Burlington on July 31, several contingents of Mumia supporters vocally were on hand catching the president's eye. One protester came within a few feet of the president, yelling Mumia slogans. The pristine image of Burlington's business district mandated by Mayor Peter Clavelle was spoiled. Incidentally, Clavelle, who pur-

# Women and Labor

**Common Sense and a Little Fire: Women and Working-Class Politics in the United States, 1900-1965**, by Anelise Orleck. University of North Carolina Press, 1995. 384 pages.

This engaging book traces the lives of four immigrant women labor activists — Rose Schneiderman, Fannia Cohn, Clara Lemlich Shavelson and Pauline Newman — and the major role they played first in the Women's Trade Union League (WTUL) and then in the emergence of the New Deal welfare state. All four began on the garment shop floor, but also in immigrant communities with strong socialist traditions. They came of age during the labor upsurge of the early 1900s when the AFL garment trades unions seriously attempted to organize women workers for the first time. And they remained active in the movement for decades, if not quite so long as the title implies.

Schneiderman began as a capmaker and a Socialist, but quickly concluded that alliances with rich progressives were necessary to improve working women's lives. This led her to the WTUL, which she led for several years, and into Franklin Roosevelt's New Deal coalition. Pauline Newman lived most of her life on the ILGWU payroll, struggling to force its hidebound "socialist" officials to pay more attention to the needs of the women workers who made up the bulk of their membership. Fannia Cohn, too, spent her life working for the ILGWU despite its officials' best efforts to force her

out. Cohn developed a pioneering labor education program which became a model to similar efforts across the country.

Shavelson is in some senses the most interesting of the four women profiled. Arrested 17 times during the 1909 strikes, she played a key role in the Uprising of the 20,000. Unlike the other four, she never became a union or government functionary, instead focussing her efforts on rank-and-file and community organizing. Blacklisted

## Book Review

by garment manufacturers and fired from her job as a suffrage speaker because of her radical politics, Shavelson turned to the Community Party and spent most her life as a community organizer under CP auspices.

All four, Orleck argues, shared a vision of labor organizing that extended beyond the shop floor to working-class families' homes and neighborhoods. While deeply committed to workers' organization, they believed the State had a central role to play in protecting women workers, and opposed the Equal Rights Amendment because it might undermine protective legislation.

It is impossible to read this without being moved by the struggles of these workers and the vision to which they devoted their lives. Although one might wish for a more critical assessment this is an important book, and one well worth reading.

(JB)

ports to be the mayor of "the People's Republic of Burlington" refused Mumia Solidarity Coalition requests to allow pro Mumia supporters to camp on city land.

Support and legal aid for jailed protesters were overwhelming. At all times during the detentions legal and support teams were present; and courtrooms were packed during the arraignments.

On July 31, when eight arrestees were being held in South Burlington's Fire Station, word came that the governors were being transported via bus past the Fire House to Shelburne Farms for a "Vermont Tasting." Jail support became a mobile protest waving signs and yelling at the cringing governors in the buses. Far from that legal protest, it was reported that as the buses neared Shelburne Farms, they were pelted by eggs.

Other clandestine activities occurred which the Mumia Solidarity Coalition was neither privy to nor involved with during the four days. During the storming of the Radisson on Saturday at least one police vehicle was damaged with a flattened tire. Sunday morning's breakfast was spoiled when the governors arrived at the Ethan Allen Homestead; named after Vermont's famous racist who blatantly stole the Abenaki indigenous people's land in the 1700s. The museum and grounds building were spray painted with numerous slogans including "Fuck You Gov Tom Ridge, Ridge is a racist" and "FREE MUMIA." Vermont Governor Howard Dean called the graffiti "an embarrassment to the state."

News coverage of the protests was basically favorable. Besides regional lead story reportage, other coverage included spots on CNN, C-SPAN, Philadelphia, New York and New Jersey television and the event was picked up by the *Christian Science Monitor*, *Boston Globe* and other major dailies, radio, and UPI, AP and other agencies who disseminated the information nationally and internationally.

The Mumia Solidarity Coalition is an autonomous coalition formed to respond to the emergency situation of the scheduled execution of Mumia Abu-Jamal and to help

facilitate logistics and support for the pro-Mumia activists who came to protest at the Governors' Conference. The coalition has no leaders.

The Burlington IWW group thanks the IWW General Executive Board for approving an emergency request to help in organizing the protests. The Burlington IWW can be reached at POB 1004, Williston VT 05495 tel: 802/482-4601

Burlington's Mumia Solidarity Coalition can be reached at the Native Forest Network Eastern North American Resource Center, POB 57, Burlington, VT 05402 tel: 802/863-0571 email: nfnena@igc.apc.org

— Orin Langelie

## Execution Stayed

Judge Sabo signed a stay of execution on August 7th, indefinitely postponing the execution scheduled for Aug. 17 until Mumia Abu-Jamal's appeals can be heard.

A few days later some 5,000 demonstrators marched in Philadelphia (and another 1,500 marched in San Francisco), demanding that Jamal's conviction be overturned and a new, fair trial be held to establish the truth of what happened the night of Dec. 9, 1981. Several witnesses have testified during the hearing that they saw someone else commit the shooting, and that police either discarded their statements or pressured them into making new statements fingering Abu-Jamal.

As we go to press Judge Sabo is considering the wording on his ruling to reject Abu-Jamal's bid for a fair trial, which will be followed by an appeal. Meanwhile, pressure still needs to be brought on Pennsylvania authorities. Supporters have called for a boycott of Pennsylvania, and are urging people to call the tourist offices and let them know that we are boycotting them: 1-800-VISIT-PA.

## Live From Death Row

Now available from the IWW Literature Dept. is *Live From Death Row* by Mumia Abu-Jamal. Cover price \$20. Just \$15 while supplies last.



Labor History & Popular Culture

The IWW Literature Department is offering a limited stock of academic labor studies, (auto)biographies of people involved in labor struggles and labor history. Many are remaindered or about to go out of print. Some already have. These titles are available in small quantities, while supplies last.

**The Centralia Tragedy of 1919: Elmer Smith and the aWobblies** by Tom Copeland. Univ. of Washington Press, 1994, 232 pp., \$17.50, paper.

**Rebel Girl**, the autobiography of Elizabeth Gurley Flynn. \$9.95, paper.

**Let Us Now Praise Famous Men** by Edward Agee & Walker Evans. Text and photos of 1930s Appalachian workers. 467 pp., \$9.00, paper.

**Where the Sun Never Shines: A History of America's Bloody Coal Industry** by Priscilla Long. 420 pp., \$10.00, paper.

**A People Betrayed—November 1918: A German Revolution** by Alfred Döblin. The story of the Spartacist Revolt and the rarest of all things, a politically correct political novel. 638 pp., \$8.00, paper.

**Woodie's 20 Grow Big Songs.** Woodie Guthrie's songbook for little kids. Hardcover, 50 pages, published at \$16, now \$10.

**The Disappearance of Local 717: An Underground History of Packard Electric** by Benjamin Sachs, cooperatively produced, pamphlet, 38 pages, \$3.

How the Warren, OH, local was destroyed by the 12 hour speed-up and labor-management "cooperation."

**American Rubber Workers and Organized Labor, 1900 1941** by Daniel Nelson, Princeton Univ. Press, 1988, hardcover, 340 pp., now \$12.

**Waterfront Workers of New Orleans: Race, Class and Politics, 1863-1923** by Eric Arnesen, Oxford Univ. Press, 1991, hardcover, 353 pp., published at \$45. \$20.

**The Kid From Hoboken, An Autobiography: Bill Bailey**, edited by Lynne Damme, Smyrna Press, paper, 424 pp. \$12.95.

Itinerant worker, one-time Wobbly, sailor, longshoreman, Spanish Civil War veteran, Red, Bailey ripped down the swastika on the Nazi flagship Bremen in N.Y. Harbor in 1935.

Books for Rebel Workers

**Rebel Voices: An IWW Anthology.** edited by Joyce Kornbluh.

Collection of articles, cartoons, songs & poetry from the IWW press. \$22

**Sabotage in the American Workplace.** edited by Martin Sprouse.

Tales of shop-floor resistance to speed-ups, bum pay and the drudgery of wage slavery. \$12

**Hard-Pressed in the Heartland.** by Peter Rachleff

Rachleff participated in P-9's struggle against Hormel & the UFCW. That struggle suggests the possibility for a militant, rank & file, community-based unionism. \$12

**One Big Union.** by IWW.

The basic introduction to the structure and methods of the Industrial Workers of the World. \$2

Music/Song

**Good News.** Sweet Honey in the Rock

**All Used Up.** Utah Phillips

**Smash the State and Have a Nice Day.** Citizens Band

**Don't Mourn, Organize!** Songs of Joe Hill by various artists

**Rebel Voices.** Songs of the IWW sung by IU 630 Wobs

**I Have Seen Freedom.** Si Kahn

**We Have Fed You All for 1,000 Years.** Utah Phillips - Wobbly songs.

**As Seen on No TV.** Chris Chandler

**It Takes A Lot of People.** Tribute to Woody Guthrie by Larry Long & kids

**A World to Win.** Tom Juravich

**Greenfire.** Dakota Sid & Travers Clifford

**Food Phone Gas Lodging.** Charlie King

**Justice.** Toshi Reagon

**Out of Darkness.** Tom Juravich

**Look to the Left.** Anne Feeney

All Cassettes: \$10 each

**IWW Little Red Songbook** (36th Edition)

103 labor songs from around the world, with music. Includes classics and new songs by Billy Bragg, Anne Feeney, Charlie King, Utah Phillips, etc. \$10

**Canadian IWW Songbook**

41 songs by Arlene Mantle, Rick Fielding, Faith Nolan, Len Wallace & others, with music & chords. \$5.

**1923 IWW Songbook**

Facsimile reprint of IWW Songs, \$5

**Posters by Carlos Cortez**

Lucy Parsons, Ben Fletcher or Joe Hill. \$15

**Rise and Repression of Radical Labor.** by Daniel Fusfeld.

A short history of the U.S. movement from the 1877 strike wave through the 1918 red scare trials, deportations and murders. \$5

**Crystal Gazing the Amber Fluid.** by Carlos Cortez.

Long-time IWW artist Cortez's poetic take on life in the late 20th century. \$4

**Solidarity Unionism.**

by Staughton Lynd.

Critical reading for all who care about the future of the labor movement. \$7

**Mask of Democracy: Labor Suppression in Mexico.** by Dan LaBotz.

Rank & file insurgencies, maquila-doras and NAFTA all get attention. The need for world labor solidarity is inescapable. \$14

**Labor Law for the Rank & Filer.** by Staughton Lynd.

Revised and updated for the 1990s. A classic self-help manual. The subtitle says it all: "building solidarity while staying clear of the law." \$7

**Progress Without People: In Defense of Luddism.** by David F. Noble.

Technology is a political question, and too often workers are excluded from the decisions. A detailed analysis of technology's effects and working-class responses. \$15

**Memoirs of a Wobbly.**

by Henry McGuckin.

The memoirs of a rambling Wobbly organizer of the 1910s. How they hoboed, organized and lived. Free speech fights and

"fanning the flames of discontent." \$5

**Break Their Haughty Power.**

by Eugene Nelson.

Fictionalized biography of Joe Murphy, who was an IWW member between 1919 and 1924. \$12

**Fellow Worker: The Life of Fred Thompson.** Compiled by D. Roediger.

Autobiographical reflections and philosophy from a veteran Wobbly who bridged the generations. \$10

**Solidarity Forever—An oral history of the IWW.** Steward Bird, Dan Georgakas & Deborah Shaffer, eds.

A compilation of interviews with former and veteran Wobblies. Badly transcribed, but interesting reading. \$11

**Mad in the USA.**

by Gary Huck & Mike Konopacki.

Their third cartoon collection. "These unbeheldden bozos are the best class-warrior cartoonists of our time." \$12

**Working the Waterfront.**

Wobbly longshoreman Gilbert Mers tells the story of 42 years on the Texas waterfront as a rank-and-file radical. Workers' history as it should be told. Hardcover: \$20

**The General Strike.**

by Ralph Chaplin.

Chaplin's musical version of the IWW Preamble has the line "without our brain and muscle not a single wheel can turn." He expands that idea in this 1933 essay. \$2

**Strike!** by Jeremy Brecher.

A history of U.S. workers' struggle from workers' point of view. Argues class upsurges are based in everyday live and rank & file initiative. \$15

**Food Not Bombs.**

Veggie recipes and how-to information for feeding the hungry in this society where food is a privilege. \$9

**Power!** by MacShane, Plaut & Ward.

A history of black workers and their struggle to improve everyday life and transform the system. \$8

**Juice is Stranger than Friction.**

by T-Bone Slim.

Funny and irreverent, Slim's popular writings for the *Industrial Worker* of the 20s and 30s are collected for the first time. \$8

**The American Labor Movement: A New Beginning.** by Sam Dolgoff.

A veteran IWW organizer traces the history of labor militance and offers his vision for building a new, radical, rank-and-file labor movement. \$5

Bumperstickers

Six IWW bumperstickers are available, each with IWW Globe on left. Slogans: Solidarity Forever, One Big Union, Because Capitalism Cannot Be Reformed, An Injury to One Is an Injury to All!, Don't Mourn Organize, Labor is Entitled to All It Creates. Black on durable white stock, \$1.25 each, post-paid.

Video Documentary

**Older = Bolder: Anarchist Elders,** by Zimya Toms-Trend

28-minutes; veteran Wobblies reflect on their struggles and ideas. VHS, \$20.00

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T-SHIRTS

**Sabo-Cat, Wobbly Globe, General Strike** \$12 each, 100% cotton. State size (S, M, L, XL) & color (red or white) San Francisco Branch, PO Box 40485, SF CA 94140.

**Film Workers** (worker stepping over Hollywood sign), **One Big Union** \$10 Red shirts, black print. Button: **Don't Whine - Organize** Film Workers Organizing Committee IU 630. \$1. Los Angeles GMB, 1748 Clinton St., LA CA 90026. Ask for list of books about the IWW. 213-353-9885.

**IWW Globe** Black & red, M, L or XL. 50/50, \$14. Denver Group, 1130 Bannock, Denver CO 80204

**Sab-Cat** \$8. Lehigh Valley Branch, PO Box 4133, Bethlehem PA 18018.

**I'm A Little Wobbly** Red with black kitten (childrens sizes 11-12 & 14-16 only) \$8. **The Hand That Will Rule the World - One Big Union** Grey pocket-t, IWW on pocket, workers with fist on back. \$15. **An Injury To One Is An Injury To All** Navy pocket-t, SLC branch seal on pocket, sab cat on back \$15. **Joe Hill** White t with picture by FW Cortez \$10.

**Employing Class** Red sabo cat t-shirt \$10. Please add \$5 for postage/handling. Salt Lake IWW, PO Box 520514, Salt Lake City, UT 84152-0514

Available from IWW Branches

**Workers Guide to Direct Action. Workers Guide to Organizing** \$2.95 each. Lehigh Branch. Ask for catalog  
**Workers Guide to Direct Action** 75 cents. **Collective Bargaining Manual** \$2.50. New York Branch, RD 1 Box 158-B, Hartwick NY 13348

**The Objectives of Anarcho-Syndicalism** by Rudolf Rocker. \$1. **Shopfloor Struggles of American Workers** by Martin Glaberman 50 cents. Ask for catalogue. Philadelphia GMB, 4722 Baltimore Ave., Philadelphia PA 19143

OUTSIDE U.S.

**Canadian Songbook** \$5. **36th Edition Little Red Songbook** \$10. Toronto Branch, c/o J. Dymny, 11 Andrews Ave., Toronto ONT M6J 1S2

**British Isles** - a selection of IWW literature is available from F. Lee, IWW, 75 Humberstone Gate, Leicester LE1 1WB, as is the magazine *Burning Fuse* £1

**Black IWW t-shirts**, red globe logo £5 plus post and packing from Oxford IWW

Silent Agitators

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IWW Buttons

**Fire Your Boss!** \$1 each

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**IWW Globe** circled by motto: "Labor is Entitled to All it Creates." Black & Red, \$1.50.



Since this article was written, the Detroit Newspaper Agency hired helicopters to fly papers out of its plant Sept. 9th to evade a second weekend of mass picketing. Some 3,000 people, mostly rank-and-

there sooner!! So the talks kept going! The bizarre scene included some speakers who could not depart from their prepared text, as well as several who would get up and say, We should get down there NOW!, to be

what to expect in the event of an assault. Over the last 6 weeks, the cops have used aggressive confrontation tactics to engage the crowd only when the numbers clearly favor them.

gate had not held many people would certainly have been hurt. As it was, the truck couldn't quite bust through, and got hung up on a large, dead tree which somehow found its way onto the driveway. While the truck

was immobilized, the picketers found ways to express their displeasure at the machine and its operator, such that the company felt

# Mass Picket Hits Scab Papers

file workers came together from unions all over the Detroit metro area Sept. 2 to shut down the Sunday scab paper. UAW, AFSCME, SEIU, CWA, Steelworkers, Teamsters, Newspaper Guild, and many others all joined together in the largest combined union action since.... well we can't actually remember when.

On the other side, spread up and down the median strip on Mound Road, were around 300 cops from upwards of 20 suburban communities. Even the state police contributed a few representatives. All 200 were prepared with their show of riot helmets, face shields, body shields, clubs, pepper gas, the works. It was quite a sight to see. The two sides faced each other from Saturday afternoon all through the night. Early Sunday morning most picketers had left, and the cops decided that the 50 or so that were left was a small enough number to push through and open the gates. But for more than 15 hours, no scabs went in and no papers came out.

The main body of picketers assembled between 3 and 5 pm at UAW Local 228, whose office is about a mile up Mound Rd. from the plant. A rally started a little after 4, with many speakers lined up. One of the more surreal moments came when, about half way through the line-up, the moderator announced that the police had begun to move in on the 250 or so people who were already down at the gates, that they were using gas on them, so the speakers should shorten their talks so we could get down

followed by another who would say the same thing. Meanwhile the crowd kept getting more and more restless, shouting LET'S GO! and began to line up to march down. Finally, well after most people had stopped listening, the stream of verbiage wound down, and the march began to the plant.

When we got there we learned that the cops, who had not realized so many people would be at the gates so early, had tried to open the line and used pepper gas on some people in addition to a few kicks and arrests. The 250 picketers had pushed them back and held the line. The reinforcements divided into three groups to guard the three gates and the long standoff began. Gate 1 was where the cops were, and we thought it was most likely that any attempted movement would be through there.

It was just a real middle American holiday scene — hundreds of working class men and women, a bunch of kids, and a couple of hundred cops ready to rock and roll. The leaders of the picket emphasized and tried to enforce a non-violent, sit-down tactic in the case of a police confrontation. Most of the rank-and-file were inclined to support the leaders, especially since at long last something seemed to be happening. Yet there was a strong, more militant current that expressed deep resentment to being pushed around by a police force popularly seen as 'mercenaries,' who have received between \$360,000-\$460,000 in payments from the Detroit Newspaper Agency to the city of Sterling Heights. We didn't know

It was clear as the night wore on that they were not ready to just jump and go, but as it got later, and the crowd began to thin out some, things began to get more tense. The major turning point came around 3:00 am. At gate 1, the boys in blue straightened up their line, lowered their face shields, and picked up their body shields (which a bunch of them had been leaning and even sitting on). The cop car which would have to be pulled across the lanes to stop traffic started up, and its top lights and headlights started flashing. The picketers packed together in front of the gate, chanting and shaking our fists. Then word came from gate 3 that the company had tried to send a truck through and might start trying to get the papers out there. The picket captains had to decide whether to send people over there, whether it was a decoy, or whether the stand-off at our gate was the decoy. In the end we stood fast at gate 1. After about 20 minutes or so, the tension began to ebb and the cops began to stand down.

Later we learned that, in the absence of supervision by the representatives of law, order and property, folks at Gate 3 had chained and locked the gate, with sprinkles of bon bons for the tires in the driveway. The company had tried to cut the chain, but experienced some interference from picketers on the other side of the gate. Then they had decided to send one of the trucks at 35 miles an hour to bust through the gate, never mind that 400 people were massed on the other side and were given no warning. If the

obliged to send out a squad of their hired security thugs to rescue the machine and its operator. They accomplished this with some difficulty, but then realized that the gate, with a number of holes and gaps in it, was no longer very effective at keeping the strikers OUT. This seemed to trouble them somewhat, since they drove four vans side by side to the gate to form a barricade.

Interestingly enough, after a few minutes the vans, now lacking attributes such as working headlights and inflated tires, had all of a sudden become a barrier effectively keeping the newspapers and trucks IN. A striking example of dialectics in practice.

Around 3:45, after all this, the company made a more tentative attempt to pull the same stunt at Gate 1. On that side the actual gate is much farther in from the road with a long stretch of driveway between the fence and the road where the picketers were. The driver seemed to think he could move through the crowd relatively slowly.

This provided ample opportunity for response, including a number of people who climbed onto the truck to offer a variety of arguments as to why this was not such a good idea. By the time the driver managed to find reverse and back the truck back into the plant, only hitting the guard shack a little, the cops had roused themselves again and another stand-off took place. This one died down again, and the exhausted but highly exhilarated crowd realized that we had indeed stopped the paper from coming

*continued on page 9*

None of the organs of civil society know what to make of the IWW, the movement is not understood by the government; the courts are not able to grasp its meaning, and the capitalist press do not recognize its essence.

All the organs and institutions feel that the IWW is a dangerous movement, but why it is more dangerous than all the social movements that have hitherto existed; why it rises more and more threatening against the present-day order of things they do not know.

All the organs and institutions of capitalism were combined in the persecution of the IWW from the date of its inception, and they have to admit today that they have been unable to conquer the IWW even though they have employed every means that their ingenuity and ferocity could devise.

Could we list the number and sentences imposed upon the members of the IWW, it would become clear to all that nowhere on earth, not even Russia of the Czarist regime, have the active members of any organization suffered such prison sentences; could we tabulate the total of the members who have lost their lives in the fight it would show that the IWW has contributed more lives to the cause of human freedom than any other organization; had we at our command the many cases of tortures inflicted upon the members it would make a book of horrors that would startle humanity and "immortalize civilization" with its record of inhuman atrocities.

There is nothing in the way of persecution that has not been used against the IWW, and what have they gained? Have they succeeded in frightening the members? No! Each atrocity has served to increase the feeling of self-sacrifice and the unbreakable spirit to stick to the organization. Did they perhaps frighten away from the IWW the unorganized workers? On the contrary, they

did but turn their attention to it.

Civil society, as constituted today, stands helpless before the IWW. It has tried every means to overcome the IWW but the IWW is steadily gaining in strength.

It is only natural that society of the present day will refuse to cease the persecution of the IWW or to confess its lack of success... because that would mean a confession of impotency that would shorten its days of existence. Civil society... seeks consolation in jeering the IWW.

As a base for its jeers it takes the three initials of our organization and attributes a satirical meaning to them, calling the IWW an I Won't Work movement.

The satire is not satire at all. It is a real fact. It is a slogan of education. Society of the present day is unable to even make game of the name of the IWW because even their best intentioned jeers but help to spread a knowledge of the organization.

There is no bigger truth than the slogan, I Won't Work. It is a double truth. It is true as a means of the present day struggle, and it is true as to the goal for which we struggle.

After many long and bitter experiences, after many sacrifices, the workers recognize that the strike is their most effective weapon. No other effort makes itself so much felt and brings relief from oppression. The capitalist, too, recognizes this when the workers say to him: I Won't Work.

The capitalists, so long as the workers work, feel no concern in or for the workers. They are concerned only in profits. They take notice only when the workers say I Won't Work.

Thus it is that the worker gives his individual and social signal of freedom and life, his willingness to fight for freedom, by answering the demands of the capitalist

## — I Won't Work —

with I Won't Work.

The workers, because of their position in the present-day society, are compelled to work for wages; for the benefit of the employers.

I Won't Work does not mean that the workers are tired of work; that they desire to become idlers.

They know that without work society cannot be maintained nor can they maintain themselves; but they are tired of and even detest work ordered by others and from which others reap all of the gain and they but a meager wage.

The workers organized in the IWW are tired of working for capitalism and are organizing so that they may be able to work for themselves.

**75 years ago in the IWW press**

So the jeers of our opponents do not make us angry when they Say I Won't Work because it is true that we want to free ourselves from the present system that forces us to work for others. We are not displeased when our opponents advertise that the IWW proclaims the doctrine of I Won't Work,

because when a worker admits that his life is aimless if he does not fight for a system in which the workers

can work for themselves it is a beautiful expression of class-consciousness.

I Won't Work means that we won't work for the capitalists as wage slaves any longer than we have to, and that we shall always struggle to work as free workers in a free industrial society.

Let our enemies jeer us. We are proud to belong to an organization that is fighting for the abolition of wage slavery.

*Solidarity, October 20, 1920*

## Be a Wobbly — Join the IWW...

**Real Democracy!** All policy decisions are made by referendum. The IWW has just one (modestly) paid officer, the General Secretary-Treasurer. The 7-member General Executive Board is elected annually by the entire membership. All officers may be recalled by referendum. IWW workplaces and branches make their own decisions about bargaining and strategy.

**To Join** mail this form with a check or money order for initiation and first month's dues to IWW, 103 West Michigan Ave., Ypsilanti MI 48197, or contact your local delegate. **Dues:** Monthly income under \$800: \$5 per month; Income \$800-1700: \$9 monthly; Over \$1700: Dues \$12. Initiation Fee is same as one month's dues. A low-income worker can join for as little as \$10.00

☐ I affirm that I am a worker, and that I am not an employer.  
☐ I agree to abide by the IWW constitution and regulations.  
☐ I will study its principles and make myself acquainted with its purposes.  
 Name: \_\_\_\_\_ Occupation: \_\_\_\_\_  
 Address: \_\_\_\_\_ City: \_\_\_\_\_  
 State/Prov.: \_\_\_\_\_ Zip: \_\_\_\_\_ Phone: \_\_\_\_\_

*Membership includes a subscription to the Industrial Worker*